

On Mending Relationships

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I. Introduction.

- A. Unity and love are crucial in the church.
- B. This is for the sake of testimony. (John 13)
- C. This is also for the sake of assurance. (I John 3)
- D. This is essential for the sake of ministry. (Ephesians 4)
- E. Text: Matthew 18:15-20.
- F. Discipline is the key for mending relationships.

II. The procedure for discipline.

- A. There is to be a private address. No one else is to know.
 - 1. One is not to sit and sulk.
 - 2. One should not write a letter, especially an anonymous letter.
 - 3. Be careful in addressing a brother—the brother needs to be restored in a spirit of meekness. (Galatians 6:1)
- B. There is to be a rebuke of two or three if the private one does not work. (Deuteronomy 19:50)
- C. There is to be a public rebuke if the previous step fails to solve the problem.
 - 1. This needs to be laid before the entire congregation.
 - 2. Two or three must be involved in the accusation of this.
- D. If a person still does not repent he is to no longer be called a brother, he is to be denied the Lord's Supper, and he is to be cut off from church service but he is still to be treated as a brother. (I Corinthians 5, II Corinthians 2)

III. The promise in discipline.

- A. The church is given authority of discipline. (Matthew 16)
- B. Whatever is bound on earth must already be true in heaven.

IV. The product of discipline.

- A. Unity.

B. Spiritual service.

C. Worship.

V. Lessons.

A. There is a necessity for fellowship with one another that demands humility.

B. The church is as strong as its unity.

C. God's church is comprised of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Application questions:

1. What are some cautions you would give in rebuking a person?

2. Why is it good to bring more people to a problem if a private rebuke does not solve the issue?

3. Why is rebuking someone sometimes necessary? Explain.
