

The Danger of Causing a Christian to Sin

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 18.
- B. Loving the Lord leads to a desire for the welfare of his children.
- C. The treatment of God's people has always been of great concern to God. (Psalm 105:5)
- D. How one treats God's people is a determiner of blessing in life. (Genesis 27:29, Deuteronomy 24:4)
- E. We must never cause another person to sin.

II. The principle: it is impossible to separate God from his people.

- A. God's life is bound up in his people. (John 13:20; 14:20; Acts 9; 1 John 3:24; 4:13)
- B. How one treats a Christian is how one treats Christ.

III. The peril: it would be better to be dead than cause a Christian to sin.

IV. The prevention.

- A. Some ways we do this.
 - 1. We are a direct source of temptation. (Luke 22:31)
 - 2. We are indirect sources of temptation.
 - 3. We set a sinful example when we lead people to sin or abuse our liberty. (Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 8)
 - 4. We fail to lead people to righteousness.
- B. One is to take drastic measures against sin because it damns. (1 Corinthians 9:21)

Application Questions:

1. What are some ways we can be both direct and indirect sources of temptation?

2. Explain why leading a Christian into sin is the same as harming Christ.

3. Are you leading people to righteousness by your lifestyle? How can you grow?
