

**GOD'S PROCESS FOR HANDLING DIFFERENCES  
BETWEEN LEADERS & THE LEAD**

- We differ in:  
Perspectives, JUDGEMENTS, Understanding, Viewpoints,  
COMFORT LEVEL, Opinions, Concerns, Timing, PRIORITIES, et.al.
- Differences arise in:  
Ministry METHODS Motives
- Unity DOES NOT EQUAL Unanimity

Leadership is accountable to:

- Teach Biblical PRINCIPLES
- MODEL Biblical principles
- Establish processes, PROCEDURES, practices
- Make change HAPPEN
- Make change happen CONSISTENTLY

Three Biblical Tools for Leaders:

- Tool #1 OPEN-DOOR discussions
- Tool #2 Seeking out information and counsel
- Tool #3 A formal Biblical appeal

When making an appeal -

- Be discerning (know what the real issue is)
- Be PRAYERFUL
- Be RESPECTFUL
- Be TRUTHFUL
- Be TRUSTING

When responding to an appeal –

- Be an active LISTENER
- Be OPEN
- Be TEACHABLE
- Be willing to reconsider
- Be respectful

KEY – Requires a culture of mutual Christ-like HUMILITY and submission.

How do we operate today?

In the flock:

- Frequent and open DISCORD, discontent, divisiveness
- Behind the scene GOSSIP and backbiting
- In today's culture we don't appeal; we PROTEST (or worse, we attack)

In the leadership:

- BLIND to communicate disconnects
- UNAWARE of tendencies to not listen; or be unresponsive

**Sermon Notes**

Week of February 10, 2008

“Be The Church – For Each Other”

“Speaking the Truth in Love”

**A HEALTHY CHURCH...**

**...is less about a place that looks a certain way, and more about people who love in the right way. And love is generally best shown when given in the face of circumstances we don't like.**

“Restoring a Sinning Brother”

Galatians 5:26-6:5

Sin always has an affect.

- It affects the BELIEVER himself...
- It affects GOD...
- It affects others – believers & UNBELIEVERS

**1) Believers**

- ~Sin creates a LOSS of confidence.
- ~Sin creates a loss of inner JOY and peace
- ~Sin DEFEATS the use of spiritual gifts.
- ~Sin may even destroy one's usefulness and ministry.

**2) God**

- ~Sin PROVOKES the Lord to jealousy.
- ~Sin MOCKS God.
- ~Sin GRIEVES the Holy Spirit.

**3) Others**

- ~Sin infects fellow believers.

HOLINESS is the Christians most important pursuit!

On the positive side:

- ~Holiness involves growing in CHRISTLIKENESS.

On the negative side:

- ~Holiness involves CORRECTING what is impure.

WE WANT TO BE:

- 1) LOVING 2) GRACIOUS 3) HELPFUL

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO GODLY BEHAVIOR Part I

Matthew 18:15-20

In many churches today:  
there is no tolerance for sin in PRINCIPLE;  
there is much tolerance for sin in PRACTICE.

Sin in the Church:

- ~Corrupts the BODY
- ~Grieves the LORD
- ~Dishonors His WORD
- ~Slanders His NAME

Matthew 18 outline – Jesus teaches about childlikeness:

- Must enter the kingdom like a little child (vv3-4)
- Must be protected like a little child (vv5-9)
- Must be care for like a little child (vv10-14)
- Must be disciplined like a little child (vv15-20)
- Must forgive like a little child (vv21-35)

I. The Receiver v.15a

- **“Sins”** Gk. *hamartano*; def. “missing the mark”

Any sin by any believer requires accountability.

- All sin is an OFFENSE against God’s holiness
- All sin CORRUPTS the holiness of God’s people
- All sin MARS a believers fellowship with God and believers

The focus of discipline is always on REPENTANCE and RESTORATION.

II. The Initiator v.15b

Accountability is the responsibility of every member.

**“Tell/Reprove”** = def. “bringing to light; exposing”

In initiating accountability consider:

- 1) your WILLINGNESS
- 2) your passion and MOTIVE
- 3) your personal PURITY

*“The absence of confronting sin may well be the most severe and DEBILITATING problem in the church this century.”*

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO GODLY BEHAVIOR Part II

Matthew 18:15-20

I. The Purpose v.15c

The purpose of discipline is the spiritual RESTORATION of fallen members and the consequent STRENGTHENING of the church and GLORIFYING of the Lord.

II. The Process vv.16-17

- First rebuke is private
- Second rebuke is semi-private (2-3 witnesses)
- Third rebuke is public (before the church)

III. The Place vv.16-17

The place for discipline is WITHIN the church.

Church – Gk. *ekklesia* =def. “called out assembly”

The final step in Mt. 18 is not OPTIONAL. Step #4 is to put the unrepentant believer out of FELLOWSHIP until he REPENTS.

- This is not the end of the process. It should not end until the brother has either REPENTED or DIED.
- When a believer repents he is to be WELCOMED back into the fellowship. He is not a SECOND-class member or on “probation”.

IV. The Authority

God’s promise was that when His sheep bend their WILLS to His, He will ENDORSE and EMPOWER their act of obedience.

**“Shall be bound”**=lit... **“WILL HAVE BEEN BOUND”**

**“Shall be loosed”**=lit... **“WILL HAVE BEEN LOOSED”**

**“Agree”**-Gk. *sumphoneo*=def. “sound together”

When Jesus says, “*I am among them*” He assures His people that He Himself acts with them when they work to PURIFY the church.