

Sermon Reflections

Care in Confrontation (Matthew 18:12-20)

Summary: Care within Christ's Community means we must confront our brothers led away by sin. And it means, we must do so in the right way.

1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 12-14)

- Why do we pursue or confront a brother in sin?
- How is the sheep that went astray much like the brother led away by sin? If you were the shepherd, how would you respond to this wayward sheep?

2. The Right Process (vv. 15-17)

- Step 1: One-to-One (v. 15)
 - Must the sin be against you personally in order for you to confront your brother? Consider Galatians 6:1. For what type of sin does the text say you should pursue restoration?
 - Should we confront every Believer for every sin? 1 Peter 4:8 says that love covers a multitude of sins. It could be the most loving thing to cover over or look beyond a sin – where a brother practices repentance in his life.
- Step 2: Few-to-One (v. 16)
 - At what point is it appropriate to involve others in confronting a Brother in sin?
 - These others – what is the type of witness they are intended to be?
- Step 3: The Church-to-One (v. 17a)
 - Why does the Church now need to get involved?
- Step 4: He is Not One (v. 17b)
 - How does the comparison of the Gentile and Tax Collector apply to this errant Brother that hasn't listened to you, a few others, and the church?
 - 1 Corinthians 5:5 shows that the ultimate hope is restoration, even at this point in the discipline process. How can you maintain a heart that is ready to forgive, even after all of these steps?
 - Reflect on Christ's work on the cross to forgive your sins, without any caveats or requirements, and how that can influence your treatment of a repentant brother in the wake of these disciplinary steps.