

Dealing with sin (Matthew 18:15-20)

Introduction

- For what two reasons is church discipline essential?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- What is Matthew 18 largely about?
- What did we see about God in v14?
- What does this teach about church discipline?

i Church discipline is commanded (v15-17)

- Does v15 tell us to deal with sin in general or just to deal with sin directly against us?
- Which other passage suggests that that is right?
- What must you not do when you encounter another Christian sinning?
- What must you do?
- In what spirit must you do it?
- What is your aim in doing it?
- When did you last do that?
- What are you to do if the erring Christian refuses to repent?
- Why?
- What is your aim this time?
- What are you to do if the erring Christian still refuses to repent?
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- What are you to do if the erring Christian still refuses to repent?

- What does that mean?
- How should you treat someone under church discipline?
- What is the aim of this fourth step in discipline?
- What should our attitude to one another always be?
- Why should we form close friendships in the church?

ii Church discipline is confirmed (v18)

- Who is church discipline confirmed by?
- Which unusual tense does Matthew use here, and what does it mean?
- What does “binding” someone mean in this context?
- What does Jesus not mean?
- What does he mean?
- Why does this make church discipline a solemn thing?
- What should this do to us now?
- What should you do if you are not a Christian at all?

iii Church discipline is compassionate (v19-20)

- What are the believers in these verses presumably praying for?
- What does this show about the attitude we’re to have when we engage in discipline?
- When did you last pray for someone under church discipline?
- What is Jesus promising here?
- If these words apply more widely than merely to church discipline, what should they spur you on to do?

Conclusion

- What do we need to remember about God?