

Search & Rescue: the Practice of Church Discipline

Matthew 18:15-20

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- I. When should we do it? (15)
- II. What should our attitude be?
 - A. Genuine love (12-14)
 - B. Eagerness to forgive (21ff)
 - C. Gentleness (Gal. 6:1a)
 - D. Humility (Gal. 6:1b)

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- III. What is the Process Itself? (15-17)
 - A. 1st Step: Private Confrontation (15)
 - B. 2nd Step: Private Confirmation (16)
 - C. 3rd Step: Public Proclamation (17a)
 - D. 4th Step: Final Excommunication (17b)

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IV. What Are the Biblical Reasons?

A. For the sinning Christian

- 1) To restore him to the Lord and the church (Matt. 18:12-14; Gal. 6:1).
- 2) To create a proper sense of shame (2 Th. 3:14).
- 3) To deliver him over to Satan for destruction of his flesh (1 Cor. 5:5).
- 4) To save his soul (1 Cor. 5:5).

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IV. What Are the Biblical Reasons?

B. For the church

- 1) To keep the church pure (1 Cor. 5:2, 6-8, 13; 11:27).
- 2) To protect the church from false teachers & doctrinal error (1 Tim. 1:19-20; Titus 3:10-11).
- 3) To make us afraid of sinning (1 Tim. 5:20).