

Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Take One or Two Others Along

9.1 Key Principle: Discipline is God’s gift and blessing to the church.

9.2 **Overlook** minor offenses.

Proverbs 19:11 ¹¹A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

9.3 Talk **privately**.

Matthew 18:15 ¹⁵If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

9.4 Take **one or two** others along.

Matthew 18:16 ¹⁶But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

- To mediate or arbitrate (1 Cor 6:1-8)
- To encourage self-control and courtesy
- To ask questions and clarify facts
- To counsel and admonish by God’s Word
- To observe conduct and report to church or churches

9.5 Tell it to the **church**.

Matthew 18:17a ^{17a}If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

9.6 Treat the other person as a **non-believer**.

Matthew 18:17b ^{17b}And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- To convict and restore those who stray (1 Cor 5:1-13)
- To guard others from stumbling (1 Cor 5:6, see also 1 Tim 5:20, Titus 3:10-11)
- To protect God’s name (Rom 2:24)

“Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls another back from the path of sin.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

9.7 Forgive and **restore** the repentant.

Matthew 18:12-14 ¹⁴What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.