

## **For Further Growth, or Group Study**

### **Before you go, are you being petty, touchy, vindictive?**

Consider Proverbs 19:11.

“Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.” (ESV)

“Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs. (NLT)

### **If they repent, are you ready to forgive?**

Read Matthew 5:23, 24; 6:12-15; Ephesians 4:26-5:2.

### **Will you humbly hear how YOU have hurt, or offended them?**

Remember those logs, specks of Matthew 7:1-6?

What if they come to you first? Read Matthew 5:21-24.

Read and give careful thought to Hebrews 12:5-11.

### **Does Romans 12:9-18 describe your commitment to other believers?**

### **A Discipleship tool of Christ Community Fellowship** (an EFCA)

Our Mission is to be and make disciples of Jesus who love God and others to HIS glory.

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## **WARNING, WINNING A WAYWARD BROTHER**

Sin's Serious Consequences on, for God's People

“No man is an island.” wrote John Donne, of our interconnectedness. “No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less . . .” It that is true of fellow countrymen, how much more of Kingdom citizens, members of Christ's body? In Jesus, we have eternal bond, which comes with privileges and responsibilities.

When a believer drifts or dives into sin, we have a divine-given duty to seek to bring them to restoration, reconciliation. Not only are they harmed by unrepentant sin, but God's people are hurt, diminished as well.

Donne continued: “. . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” So too the spiritual state of other believers. Jesus prepared us for the crucial role of seeking to call erring brothers to repentance. He gives us process, and heavenly authority for this holy, if hard, task.

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”(Matthew 18:15-20-ESV)

## Dealing with Sin in the Kingdom Family

**The Need:** A Kingdom Family Member is “in sin”

An un-repentant of, ongoing spiritually harmful offense

They have sinned against you. Relationships are ruptured.

Sin is never merely a private matter. Others are impacted.

### The Tough Assignment:

Lovingly call to repentance, reconciliation.

Seek their return to righteousness, restoration (cf. 1 Corinthians 5, 6)

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:1, 2–ESV)

**Underlying Assumptions:** We are connected, His body!

Church is a community, not a commodity, a people, not a place or program.

Our holiness matters to God, others, ourselves.

(1 Corinthians 5:6, 7, 13)

The context: “Look at it this way. If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders off, doesn't he leave the ninety-nine and go after the one? And if he finds it, doesn't he make far more over it than over the ninety-nine who stay put? Your Father in heaven feels the same way. He doesn't want to lose even one of these simple believers.” (vs. 12-14, The Message)

**The Goal:** Restoration of the Wayward, Repair Rifts

Relationship reconciliation: to God, Church

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!” (Psalm 133:1–CSB)

**God's Plan for Authorized Accountability:**(vs. 15b-17)

1. Make a Private Appeal to Repent (Galatians 6:1, 2)  
If he hears—heeds—a brother is gained. Party!  
Refusal to repent calls for the next steps.
2. Bring Another Believer or Two to Verify, Help  
They Confirm the Problem, Process (Deuteronomy 19:15; 1 Timothy 5:19)  
They Protect, Bring Objectivity, Love
3. Report Lack of Repentance to the Church  
A lack of response changes our relationship with  
They are acting as if they are not believers and need Jesus  
Don't condone behavior, cause confusion (cf. 1 Corinthians 5, 6)  
Body is protected, warned, taught (cf. Acts 5; 2 Timothy 2:17)

**The Authority to Lovingly Confront:**(vs. 18-20)

Heaven has forbidden, allowed what Church refuses, permits

Jesus empowers, and joins, even just two, in His name (16:19)

No quorum of ten Jewish adults (minyan) required (28:20)

Study Philippians 4:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:1-8; 1 Timothy 1:20