

Help! We Can't Fix This.

READY

Have you ever purchased something needing assembly, but the pieces weren't all there? Describe.

SET & GO **Primary Texts:** Matthew 18:15-17

Set 1 *Read Matthew 18:15-17 aloud.* Answer the following questions:

According to verse 15, what two things must you do if your brother sins against you?

What should be your goal in going (v 15)?

According to verse 16, what is the purpose of bringing one or two with you?

According to verses 16 and 17, what **doesn't** happen that moves the process along?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss:* Jesus commands you to go to your brother when he has sinned. Now Jesus is not saying to go with every offense; you're to let love cover many sins (1 Pet. 4:8). But when you can't let an offense go or when the sin is harmful to others or when it's public, you must go. There's no chance of fixing something you won't address, and you are sinning if you tell others. Take note, your purpose in going is to "win" your brother, that is, to see him restored and fully reconciled. It's **not** about you!

Go 2a Often you are the only one who knows you've been wronged. Why is the desire to tell others about it so strong? How will preaching the gospel to yourself reduce these desires?

Go 2b You may see a brother who has a pattern of sin or whose sin is harmful to others or himself. How does it demonstrate love to go to him and reprove him? Why doesn't this 'feel' like love?

Go 2c How would it change your attitude if you stopped thinking about your hurt and focused on how to help?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss:* Jesus gives a remedy if your brother won't reconcile with you or won't hear your reproof. You are to take one or two objective and mature believers with you (Gal. 6:1). Their purpose is to "confirm every fact," which implies that you may be wrong. If you aren't, they are there to help bring restoration and reconciliation. They're not there to help you "win."

Go 3a Why will it be so important to find objective, godly people to bring with you?

Go 3b How will it change your attitude if you honestly embrace the possibility that it is you who is wrong?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss:* If the person will not listen, the church must be told.* Telling the "church" means telling those who have clearly identified themselves with the community. This would **not** be done on a Sunday morning where visitors are present. The purpose for telling is so the church family may appeal to him to repent and be restored. Notice that the person is to "listen" to the church (v 17).

Go 4a Why would it be important to only tell those who have clearly identified themselves with this community? How does this serve to protect the one who is sinning?

Go 4b How does this way of thinking reshape your understanding of the church's role in this process?

Go 4c In light of this study, why is identifying yourself with a local church a vital source of help and protection for you personally and for your relationships?

Set 5 *Briefly discuss:* If the person won't listen to the church, they are to be treated as an unbeliever. This means that all who know him should strive to preach the gospel to him and should not fellowship with him as if nothing is wrong. Interactions should continue to be oriented toward restoration.

FINISH

Are you a member of Cornerstone? If not, do you see how this leaves you without God's primary tool for care and protection?

* The elders as representatives and overseers of the church would be those charged with doing the "telling."

Declaring and Displaying the Gospel Together

Help! We Can't Get this Fixed

Matthew 18:15-17

God has given the church as the primary resource for reconciling broken relationships between believers.

How does this work?

1. By properly going

a. Who should go?

The one who is _____ or _____ the wrong.

_____ the one who is _____ or _____ the wrong.

b. When should you go?

- When the sin is _____
- When you _____ let it go
- When the sin is _____ to others
- When the sin is harmful to the one _____
- When the sin is _____
- When the sin is _____ or otherwise _____ to the name of Christ

c. Why do you go?

To seek for _____ and _____

2. By properly taking

a. Whom should you take?

One or two who are _____

One or two who are ' _____

b. Why do you take them?

To _____ the facts

To _____ in restoration and to _____ with reconciliation

3. By properly telling

a. Who should be told?

b. What should they be told?

They should be told of the sin.

They should be told of the refusal to listen.

c. Why are they told?

So that his community of believers can appeal to him to be restored and reconciled through repentance.

4. By properly treating

- a. How do we treat him?

We treat him as an _____

We treat him with _____ by sharing the gospel with him.

- b. Why do we treat him this way?

So he might consider the condition of his soul and be moved to repent.