March 24, 2013

Get Help for Restoration

Matthew 18:15-35

1. The Matthew 18 Restoration Process

A. Can we overlook the offense as minor?

B. Have we talked in private?

C. It is time to involve others (Mt. 18:6).

1. Take one or two people that are already aware of the sin issue.

2. If there are no others, take one or two other mature believers with you.

3. These individuals will seek to bring understanding between the parties.

4. They will seek to improve communications.

5. They may acts as arbitrators.

6. Make all efforts until someone refuses to meet or listen any more.

D. The matter needs to come before the church family.

1. Not during a morning worship service

2. Church family members should gently encourage the saint to acknowledge and repent.

3. When all efforts are exhausted, the church must proceed to the disciplinary step.

E. Matt. 18:17 now instructs the church family to make a functional decision.

1. The goal is to help the person understand the seriousness of their spiritual condition.

2. This helps other believers to be careful about the sin in their life.

3. This will help purge the church of serious sins (Eph. 4:30).

4. This is a way for the church to demonstrate their love for the Lord and the wayward member (1 Jn. 5:3; Heb. 12:5-6).

1. Should Believers Go to Court?

A. Only consider it after the completion of the disciplinary process.

B. Christians should avoid taking Christians to court.

C. The world needs to see believers resolving their issues in a godly manner.

D. We, as believers, need to know how to be peacemakers.