

Chapter 9: Take One or Two Others Along

The Matthew 18 Process (186–196)

General principle: keep the circle as small as possible for as long as possible.

- Step 1 Overlook minor offenses
- Step 2 Talk in private.
- Step 3 Take one or two others along. (Matt 18:16; Phil 4:2–3)
- Step 4 Tell it to the church. (18:17)
- Step 5 Treat him as a _____.

Purposes for Treating Someone as a Non-Believer (194)

- Revoking membership prevents the Lord from being _____ if that person continues to sin. (Rom 2:23–24)
- Other believers are _____ from being led astray by a bad example. (Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 5:1–6)
- Helps the rebellious person recognize their sin and the _____ of it, turn from it, and be restored to God.

The purpose is not to punish but to _____ out of _____.

What do reconcilers do? (191)

- They help both parties make the decisions needed to restore peace.
- They may help _____ the _____.
- They may give _____ on how to deal with the problem.
- They may encourage repentance and confession on either side.
- They may direct both parties to relevant scriptures and principles.
- They may draw from experience to propose _____ solutions.
- They may help resolve a _____.
- If no resolution is reached, they may function as _____ to the church during the reconciliation effort.

Options for When Church Cannot Resolve the Issue (197)

1. Drop the matter and give up any claims against the other person. (1 Cor 6:7–8)
2. Try to persuade the opponent to accept some other form of dispute resolution.
3. File a lawsuit. Only against _____, and only as a last effort.

The Culture of Peace in a Church (198–199)

Vision: eager to bring _____ to _____ through reconciliation.

Training: Peacemaking is not _____; train our people to respond correctly.

Assistance: Church leaders help when members cannot solve issues on their own.

Perseverance: Church should _____ to resolve relationships.

Accountability: Church leaders must help members be accountable to what God requires.

Restoration: Gladly _____ and _____ (imitating God).

Stability: Encourage members to see church as their _____.

Witness: Peacemaking will be a good _____ of Christ to the lost.