

The Steps to Correcting Offending Brothers

Mathew 18: 15–20

(Lk 17:3-4)

1. *Step 1:*

Attempt reconciliation

- a. Go to the brother alone
- b. Go to the brother with witnesses
- c. Go before the church

2. *Step 2:*

Discipline the brother

- a. The earthly discipline:
Expel him
- b. The heavenly discipline:
God will guide and support
the decision made
 - 1) The binding or correcting
of sinners
 - 2) The loosing or setting free
of sinners

3. *Step 3:*

Bathe the matter in prayer

- a. Seek agreement
- b. Seek God's will and approval
- c. Seek unity in God's name
- d. Result:
God's presence

15 "If your brother sins against you,
go and show him his fault,
just between the two of you.
If he listens to you,
you have won your brother over.

16 But if he will not listen,
take one or two others along,
so that 'every matter may be established
by the testimony 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,
treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

18 I tell you the truth,
whatever you bind on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven.

19 Again,
I tell you that if two of you on earth agree
about anything you ask for,
it will be done for you
by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three come together in my name,
there am I with them."

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