

## Take Away – Where is the Church?

Text: Matthew 18: 15 - 20

Date: 6-12-22



### With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. What are some of the root issues that hold us back from giving, and/or offering forgiveness? Give a positive example of forgiveness and the negative results of not offering/receiving forgiveness.
2. In the sermon we learned that strife is a sin and defined as being “angry or having a bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.” Where are some examples in today's world you see or witness strife?
3. React to: “Now the church pursues those within the body of Christ that are lost in sin. Our Lord commands us to go after sin. We are not allowed to shy away from it. We must identify it, then go to your brother or sister with compassion. We have to call it out in love. The entire process Jesus describes is to be carried out in humility with the goal of gaining your brother.”
4. What is the importance of first going to our brother/sister alone when there is a conflict between us?
5. What is the importance of next going with one or two other persons?
6. The final step is to “take it to the Church”. What does that mean and how does that look? Walk through the whole process using a hypothetical situation and going from one-on-one, two or three people, to “the Church” using your Small Group as an example.
7. Does “treat them (the unrepentant) as you would a pagan or a tax collector” mean we wash our hands of them and give up on them or does it have another meaning? Explain.
8. React to: “Our culture is regressing rapidly in lovingly challenging bad behavior. The church (mature Christians) must reject fear and model how to handle loving difficult conversations. This must start in our homes. Moms and Dads - your kids are watching. They are learning how to handle conflict based on your example. I've heard couples say, “*We never fight or argue in front of the kids.*” To which I say, “*Well, where else are they going to learn how to lovingly challenge one another to mature as a Jesus follower? Oh, and then when they get married and they argue they*

*may think that something is wrong with their spouse...because 'my parents never fought.'"*

9. Discuss the "office of the keys" in terms of binding and loosing sins. How should confession and absolution look in our day-to-day lives as lay people in the Church?