

The Problem of Unresolved Offences

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Matthew 18:15-20 (NLT)

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. “I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

The Greek word for brother or sister (*adelphos*) refers here to a fellow disciple, whether man or woman.

Facts from this verse:

1. When people ‘ _____ ’ against you – there will always be an opportunity to get offended
2. Go ‘ _____ ’ to them
3. Talk about things – the goal is ‘ _____ ’
4. If you can’t resolve things then take 1 or 2 others (within church leadership) to talk it over
5. Then take the case to the ‘ _____ ’ – senior leadership
6. If they won’t listen to the _____? – Treat that person as a pagan or corrupt tax collector

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Revelation 8:11 (NLT)

The name of the star was Bitterness. It made one-third of the water bitter, and many people died from drinking the bitter water.

1. It is not _____ for us to feel hurt. (Mark 3:5; Timothy 4:14)
2. The Bible teaches _____. By this it warns us not to add fuel to the fire and make a bad situation worse. (Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:17,19)
3. The Bible often reminds us that we have _____ to whom we can turn when we get hurt. “*Call upon me in the day of trouble*” (Psalm 50:15); “*Cast your burden on the LORD and He will sustain you*” (Psalm 55:22).
4. In praying to God about those who have wounded us, is it wrong to pray that He will take _____ upon them? (Psalm 145:17; Romans 8:28)
5. Finally, no matter what internal scars we carry, if we are Christians we must always remind ourselves and rejoice that our Gospel is a Gospel of _____. (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 2:12)

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.