

Stages Two & Three

Matthew #121

Matthew 18:15-17

Listens to you implies a face-to-face encounter

So, what do you do if he doesn't listen?

Jesus invokes the OT principal Deuteronomy 19:15-16

Taking 2 or 3 is never to be with the intent of *ganging up* on the person, the one being confronted needs to be reassured the goal is restoration, repentance and reconciliation not condemnation.

Note that no list of sins requiring this step is given. So what sins are we talking about?

Why are we to tell the church?

Refuses to listen indicates a deliberate act

Review: Stage one – one on one confrontation
Stage two – take others with and confront again
Stage three – tell the church

The church being told eliminates gossip.

The body, being made aware of this situation, is to move to action:

- Specific prayer-for the offender, victims, and wisdom
- Perhaps there is more information to be had, this gives the body time to bring more info to the elders to help deal with the situation.
- More loving confrontation brought by other church members who may be close to the ones involved. *And if he refuses to listen even to the church*
- The period of grace continues to be lengthened giving time for the offender to repent.