

GRACE GONE WILD!

GETTING A GRIP ON GOD'S AMAZING GIFT

"GOOD GRACE SPIRITUAL SURGERY"

MATTHEW 18:15-20

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



Introduction: Last time we saw three purposes for confronting and restoring Christians who are involved in sin:

1. **Reclaim** a Christian who has been overtaken by sin.
2. **Maintain** the witness of the church.
3. **Sustain** the spiritual health of the congregation.

Today, we are going to conclude our series, *GRACE GONE WILD!* by looking at three principles for confronting and restoring Christians who are involved in sin.

I. Categories Of Sin Requiring Correction

A. Personal Offenses Against Us (Matthew 18:21-22)

Matthew 18:12-13 ¹² “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? ¹³ If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.”

Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹ “Then Peter came and said to Him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ ²² Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”

B. Personal Sins in Others (James 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1)

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James 5:19-20 ¹⁹ “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”

C. Corporate Sins Against the Church (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

1. Sins that threaten the moral health of the church.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 ⁶ “Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? ⁷ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let’s celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

2. Sins that threaten the doctrinal health of the church.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ³ “If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴ he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a sick craving for controversial questions and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

Revelation 2:20 “But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

3. Sins that threaten the emotional health of the church.

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Romans 16:17 “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.”

Titus 3:10-11 ¹⁰ “Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

II. Performing Spiritual Surgery

A. Step #1: Talk With the Person Privately (Matthew 18:15)

Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

Matthew 7:1, 5 ¹ “Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye!”

B. Step #2: Take a Small Group With You When You Talk to the Person (Matthew 18:16)

Matthew 18:16 “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that ON THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY MATTER MAY BE CONFIRMED.”

C. Step #3: Report the Situation to the Congregation (Matthew 18:17a)

Matthew 18:17a “If he [the unrepentant believer] refuses to listen to them [those who have confronted him privately], tell it to the church.”

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D. Step #4: If Necessary, Remove the Person from the Congregation (Matthew 18:17b)

Matthew 18:17b “If he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

III. Church Discipline: Does It Really Work? (2 Corinthians 2:6-8)

2 Corinthians 2:6-8 ⁶ “Sufficient for such a person is this punishment which was imposed by the majority, ⁷ so that on the other hand, you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.”

Conclusion