



## I. A PERPLEXING PROBLEM

### A. RUPTURED RELATIONSHIPS DISGRACE THE FATHER

### B. RUPTURED RELATIONSHIPS DISCOURAGE THE FAITHFUL

*Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

*John 17:21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."*

### C. RUPTURED RELATIONSHIPS DELIGHT THE FOE

## II. A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

### A. CONSIDER YOUR RELATIONSHIP (MATTHEW 18:15)

He is your brother or she is a sister in Christ. This means somebody who shares the same parent; God the Father. And to harm them is to harm yourself, for the Bible teaches you are part of the same body.

*1 John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*

*Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

### B. CONSIDER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (MATTHEW 18:15)

Every failing Christian is another Christian's responsibility.

*Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."*

1. You must consider your meekness (Galatians 6:1).

*Romans 2:1-3, "<sup>1</sup> Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. <sup>2</sup> But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. <sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this,*

*O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?"*

2. You must consider your weaknesses (Galatians 6:1).

## III. A PRESCRIBED PROCEDURE

### A. VISITATION (MATTHEW 18:15)

1. Visit him privately.

Don't tell another person on this earth. Why not? Because that causes division.

*Proverbs 16:28, "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."*

*Proverbs 25:9, "Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:"*

2. Visit him lovingly.

*Proverbs 27:5-6, "<sup>5</sup> Open rebuke is better than secret love. <sup>6</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."*

*Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

### B. RESTORATION (MATTHEW 18:15, 21-22)

### C. CONFIRMATION (MATTHEW 18:16)

### D. CONFRONTATION (MATTHEW 18:17)

### E. EXCOMMUNICATION (MATTHEW 18:17)

1. The word "excommunicate" is from the root word "communion". It means to keep him from taking communion.
2. A publican was a tax collector and it was commonly known that they were crooks. A heathen was a non-believer. A heathen was not allowed to participate in the fellowship of the church and a publican was shunned.

*II Thessalonians 3:14-15, "<sup>14</sup> And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."*

3. To admonish means to gently rebuke or warn.
4. There was a Corinthian man who had a sexual relationship with his own stepmother and Paul addresses this by saying that they don't even hear of this among the heathens. Here were his instructions:

*I Corinthians 5:5, "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."*

*I Timothy 1:20, "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."*