

# Kingdom of God Part 8

Steve Berger May 22, 2016

## The Kingdom of God is...

- 1) kingdom is rule and reign of God, 2) future heavenly realm, 3) present heavenly “taste,” 4) parables tell us what Kingdom is like now, how it functions, how we are to operate as citizens of the Kingdom

**Today and Next Week** — *how the Kingdom operates and how we are to operate when someone sins against us*

**Introduction** — *next week we will actually see the wording “the Kingdom of heaven is like,” but today’s passage is the preceding passage, and contains the same content.*

- **Matthew 18:15-22**

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

- **Matthew 18:23**

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”

**Our King wants to settle with us  
and wants us to settle with one another —  
operating in Kingdom truth**

## If your brother sins against you

- **Matthew 18:15**

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

- brother sins against you — make sure it is a sin against you, NOT just something you think, feel, or heard — make sure it is REAL!
- go and tell fault ALONE — in love, humility, covering a multitude of sins — gaining brother — can we work it out?
- tell fault ALONE — warning — far too often we tell other people how we were sinned against, taking business into our own hands, operating outside the Kingdom is TROUBLE (Proverbs 17:9)

- DIVISION — not just between you and perpetrator, but now others and perpetrator
- God hates division — abomination to Him

- **Proverbs 6:16-19**

These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

**That has to get our attention and change how we typically handle offenses — stop dragging others into your situation, causing division, losing your brother. Let's do it right and gain a brother, contribute to unity and blessing!**

- PREVENTION — “before you tell me a thing...”

- why is this my business?
- have you gone alone?
- when you're finished telling me, I'm going straight to them and get their side

- **Proverbs 26:20-22**

Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.

**Don't be wood** to someone's fiery strife. **Contentious** people love stirring up strife, don't let them use you to do it. **Warning** — gossip, hearing things you shouldn't, is like tasty trifles, dainty morsels, sweet going in, penetrates deep into your being, doing spiritual damage to you and to the body of Christ!

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## Accusations against church leaders

- **1 Timothy 5:19-20**

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

- don't receive the information, pay attention at all, unless there are two or three actual witnesses. If no witnesses, and there is a serious crime, let the authorities take over.

**So sad** — people who falsely accuse church leaders, then other people get carried away by tasty trifles, they don't seek truth, pick up the offense, leave the church, and distrust future leaders — division!

- those who sin by accusing — rebuke in presence of all — deters future accusation and division in the church — people realize that game is not allowed here!

- **Titus 3:10-11**

Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

**Reject, shun, a divisive man**, after a couple warnings, they are warped, twisted, perverted, being self-condemned, agreed to bring condemnation on own selves.

**If someone really sins against you**, humbly and lovingly go to them alone, gain your brother, don't drag others into it. Don't allow yourself to be dragged into sin

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### **If someone refuses to hear**

- **Matthew 18:16**

But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that **'BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.'**

- this is where you can involve other people, if someone won't hear you — hopes are that they will — and as pressure and truth escalate, they'll come to their senses

- **Matthew 18:17a**

And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.

- tell it to the church Leadership

### **Foundation comes from...**

- **Deuteronomy 19:15-20**

One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you.

- **Matthew 18:17b**

But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

**If the sinful person refuses to hear you**, witnesses, and church leadership, they are clearly not interested in Kingdom truth or process, so they are to be cut off from all Kingdom communion and fellowship.

- **1 Corinthians 5:11**

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:6**

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

• **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

*Professing Christians who practice and affirm ungodly behavior with their unrepentant lifestyle are to be cut off from Christian communion and fellowship.*

**This is tough love in hopes of them coming to their senses,  
repenting and being restored to full fellowship...**

**(1 Corinthians 5, 2 Corinthians 2; sinful brother disciplined, repented, and restored)**

*Danger — allowing sinful behavior to go on, no accountability, continuing to “love” someone by continuing fellowship with them. All that does is demotivate them to repent. They continue sinful behavior, they go to a church down the street, and keep your friendship... all is good in their world... BUT NOT IN THE KINGDOM!*

**This issue of church discipline has helped fuel the fires for revival throughout the centuries... Reformation, Anabaptists, Calvin, Wesley, East Africa, Keswick, etc.**

*Question — In all our talking and praying about revival, how much depends on getting this right? The church lovingly, faithfully, redemptively, and firmly disciplining those who have sinned against the church community... “where there is no discipline, there is no true church.”*

*In closing — in context — after the instructions are given of dealing with a sinful person, Jesus says...*

• **Matthew 18:18-20**

*“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

*Typically — we use these verses for prayer and presence, I believe that...*

*Primarily — this is about the authority of the church to bind (hold), loose (forgive) the penalties of peoples’ sins they have committed against the church community — based on their particular response... unrepentant (binding), repentant (loosing/forgiving).*

**FAMILY —**

**let's be quick to repent if we sin against someone...**

**let's be quick to forgive if someone sins against us...**

**let's commit to gaining relationships that were damaged and lost by sin...**

**let's not contribute to division...**

**let's contribute to unity and blessing...**

**we may just see personal and corporate revival in our midst!**

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## Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 18:15. Why should we confront instead of ignore?
2. Proverbs 6:16-19 says that sowing discord among the brethren is an abomination to God. Does that get your attention?
3. Have you been part of a church where accusations have been made against leadership? Was it handled biblically? How did the process affect the body of the church?
4. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15. How is this directive healthy for the church body, and redemptive (not just punitive) for the sinful brother?
5. How is allowing sinful behavior to go on with no accountability harmful for the unrepentant brother, and for the church?
6. Do you personally know of anyone that you need to talk to?