

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

## Throwbacks Series | Godly Confrontation

### BIG POINT

The entire Bible may be viewed from the perspective of its **télos** (the Greek, New Testament word for “purpose, end, goal, or objective”). As a whole, the Bible’s télos is to glorify God and to help us love God and each other well.

The télos of this week’s passage from [Matthew 18:15-17](#) is:

God wants us to deal with sinners in a way that protects their integrity and the integrity of the church body. We’re to keep the circle as small as possible for as long as possible.

We’re to show grace and maintain and preserve the goal of restoration.

Matthew 18 walks us, step-by-step, through God’s perfect plan on how to confront and address sin and/or conflict within the church family.

Avoiding confrontation may sound like a good thing, but there are times when it’s necessary, and avoiding it is wrong. If Nathan had refused to confront David in [2 Samuel 12:1-15](#), David may have never been restored to fellowship with God, an entire nation would have suffered, and we likely wouldn’t have [Psalm 51](#) – a beautiful picture of a repentant heart seeking restoration with the Father.

### Notes:

#### The Kayak

*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”* Matthew 18:15

- First consider that “love covers a multitude of sins” ([1 Peter 4:8](#)). Can love cover it? If so, forgive and forget – move on in grace and love.
- If not, we’re to pursue a God-honoring confrontation with the proper heart posture, motive, and approach (H.A.M.).
- *“Between you and him ALONE.”* Your aim is to protect their integrity while seeking repentance and restoration.
- If there is repentance, then honor the result. It’s over and you won your brother! Trust the Holy Spirit and let God take it from there.

#### The Canoe

*“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”* Mt 18:16

If the brother in sin refuses to respond to counsel and encouragement, then we move on to the next step.

- Remember that it isn’t the specific sin that motivates us to move forward, but the refusal to repent.
- Take one or two others – leaving an ‘open seat in the canoe’ to return with your repentant brother.
- Who should we take and what is their role? Fellow Christians who are trustworthy and wise. They should remain

## Matthew 18:15-17

### If Your Brother Sins Against You

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

### REMINDER

We best approach confrontation focused on H.A.M.:

1. Heart – We need to be calm, not angry; focused on truth; and humble.
2. Approach – Be thoughtful of timing and setting; no blind-siding; and without involving any others if/ until necessary.
3. Motive – We are to seek repentance and restoration, not punishment; no selfish interests.

## Notes continued...:

- (cont.) neutral referees who help point to the Gospel and work towards restoration.

### The Speedboat

*"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church."* Mt. 18:17

This approach is similar to the canoe, but involves a slightly larger circle. Keep in mind that "telling the church" doesn't mean announcing it at a Sunday morning service.

- Again, this approach and next step is escalated by a refusal to repent and not motivated by the specific sin itself.
- Start with church leadership (a lifegroup leader, staff member, or elder).

### The Fleet (or Cruise Ship)

*If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.* Mt 18:17

The final step can be compared to Winston Churchill's cry for help in WW2 as depicted in the movie *The Last Hour*. It's an "all hands on deck" approach to winning the brother back.

- Maintain as much discretion and integrity as possible, you increase the circle to involve those in the body in relationship with the lost brother. Details don't need to be shared, just who it is and the type of sin being dealt with.
- Remember, the whole point of escalating to this step is to:
  - Convince the brother and move him to repentance.
  - Self-evaluation (All should ask themselves, "Am I in sin?") to ensure that motives are grace, the Gospel, and restoration, not condemnation.
  - Direction and next steps. The church's role is to counsel the brother to win him back. If that hasn't happened yet, then we abstain from normal fellowship (NOT excommunication; but abstaining from communion and not pretending nothing is wrong).

### The Final Step

*"And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."* Mt 18:17b

We treat the unrepentant brother as an unbeliever. How do we treat unbelievers?

- We love them. We share grace and the Gospel with them!