

WHEN LOVE HURTS

MATTHEW 18:15-20

The process of church discipline:

- ❶ Confrontation by one (*v. 15; see also Luke 17:3*)
- ❷ Confrontation by a few (*v. 16*)
- ❸ Confrontation by all (*v. 17*)
- ❹ Separation by all (*v. 17; see also 1 Corinthians 5:1-13*)

The proper attitudes in church discipline:

- ❶ Impartiality (*1 Timothy 5:21*)
- ❷ Grief (*1 Corinthians 5:2*)
- ❸ Humility (*Matthew 7:3-5; Galatians 6:1*)
- ❹ Prayerfulness (*1 John 5:16*)
- ❺ Gentleness (*Galatians 6:1*)
- ❻ Graciousness (*2 Corinthians 2:7-8*)

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been personally involved in church discipline? If so, how did it affect you? How does it influence your reading of Matthew 18:15-20?
2. How does Matthew 18:12-14 change your perspective on Matthew 18:15-20?
3. How do Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 help you understand the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 18:17?
4. Read the verses listed under "the proper attitudes in church discipline" on your outline. How might the lack of these attitudes undermine the goal of church discipline?
5. What is the most uncomfortable personal application for you of this passage? What must you do to obey the nudge of the Spirit?