

Message Notes

Humble Confrontation

Matthew 18:15-20

Gospel of Matthew, Part 63

February 12, 2006

Message Outline

Humble Confrontation

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I. The PRACTICE of Humble Confrontation

- A. The practice requires courage, wisdom, care and humble self-examination.
- B. The practice is a challenge, both personally and corporately in our day and age.
- C. The practice isn't popular or fun, but it's Biblical.
- D. The practice is instituted by God the Father for the good of His children. (Hebrews 12:5-15)

II. The PURPOSE of Humble Confrontation

- A. Preservation of the follower of Christ. (Mt. 18:15, James 5:19)
- B. Purity of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 6:1, 1 Cor. 5:6)
- C. Protection of the name of Christ. (Mt. 5:16, Phil. 2:15)

III. The PROCESS of Humble Confrontation

- A. Humbly look at your own sin. (Mt. 18:8-9, Gal. 6:1)
- B. Humbly go to the person alone. (Mt. 18:15)
- C. Humbly go to the person with 2-3 others. (Mt. 18:16)
- D. Humbly tell the matter to the church. (Mt. 18:17)
- E. Humbly distance yourself from the person. (Mt. 18:17)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 18:15-20 and also Hebrews 12:5-15. Why does Jesus command humble confrontation and mutual discipline in the church?
2. What is one purpose of humble confrontation based on Matthew 18:15? What are other Biblical purposes? (Use the outline and review the passages listed.)
3. What is the process of humble confrontation as outlined in Matthew 18:15-20? (Make sure you can recite them by heart!) Instead of humbly confronting a person's sin, what do we do more often?
4. What does Mt. 18:18-19 have to do with this humble confrontation process? What is Jesus actually promising here?
5. Why was this message entitled "Humble Confrontation?" How do we know, based on the larger context, that humility is required when we confront others? What does this message/passage have to do with the passage/message we looked at last week?

Growth Group Application Questions

Humble Confrontation

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Have you ever seen the Matthew 18 process implemented correctly? Share an instance where you've seen it work. Share an instance where it didn't work.
3. Have you ever attempted to humbly confront someone? How did it go? Why is it sometimes just easier to not obey Jesus' words?
4. Why are Jesus' words so little applied in our day? Assuming we're committed to applying Jesus' words, why are they so difficult to apply in our cultural climate? What are some characteristics of our day and age that make this process difficult to apply? Does this mean we should abandon the process Jesus outlines?
5. How does church membership make church discipline a bit easier in this day and age? How do you feel about church membership?
6. Is there any personal business that you need to take care of as a result of studying this passage?