

# Forgiveness: Forgiving and Forgiven

Sermon 53 in the Matthew Series

## Matthew 18:12-35

In 2011 I dealt with 5 messages on church discipline. You can hear these messages on-line at: [www.sermonaudio.com/sgrbc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/sgrbc) and when you get to our page use the search bar at the top of the page and type in church discipline

On the back table we have our position paper on church discipline that I would commend to you written in 2010. Church Discipline takes more forms than simply what is presented in Matt. 18.

### I. Setting the Context – Seeking the Lost Sheep 18:12-14

The straying sheep here is viewed as “a Christian” who has gone astray and the means we see in verses 15-17 brings the straying one back.

**Luke 15:3-7** -- -- this account is different. It is not in the context of “offense” or sin and it is the unbeliever who is sought – evangelism. When repentance takes place – it is the fruit of salvation which comes by faith and is a great cause for rejoicing!

### II. Church Discipline 18:15-19

When offenses come.

#### A. Go Alone at First

1. Gossip or bitterness is not an option.
2. You might need to seek mature wisdom in certain cases.
3. You also have the option to overlook the offense.

**Prov. 19:11** -- The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory *is* to overlook a transgression.

#### B. The Attitude that must be Maintained as we “Go Alone”.

1. **Galatians 6:1** -- Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

#### C. Go with a Clean Hands and a Clear Conscience -- Matthew 7:3-5

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#### D. One or Two Witnesses v.16

An Old Testament judicial principle is being brought into a new covenant context by the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deut 19:15--** 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.

#### E. Tell it to the Church v. 17

#### F. Binding and Loosing v. 18-20

### III. A Natural Response 18:20-22

### IV. The Parable Regarding Forgiveness 18:23-35

This is a parable -- we need to see the message it contains. .  
It is a Kingdom parable – it has a church context.

Matthew Henry did us a great service by breaking this parable down into 3 parts.

1. The master's compassion and willingness to forgive a massive debt.
2. The forgiven servant's unwillingness to forgive a much smaller debt.
3. The righteous indignation against the servant

### V. Final Applications

1. The very word “discipline” strikes people in our current culture as “distasteful”.  
Discipline is necessary – and a blessing that allows for proper interpersonal relationships.
2. The Best Discipline is Self-Discipline  
**1 Corinthians 11:31** – *“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”*
3. And to the lost  
The Scriptures tell us – “It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.”  
Trust in Christ – today!  
Trust in Christ – now!  
There are no second chances