

# Matthew 18:15-20

Encouragement When Only a Handful Show Up for Church?  
Or: Something Completely Different Than That?

## PROCEDURE for Dealing with Serious Secret Sin in the Church v15-17

**Step 1: Private Reproof v15** If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private...  
...if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

**Step 2: Plural Reproof v16** But if he does not listen *to you* take one or two more with you...  
...so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

**Step 3: Public Reproof v17** 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.

## PROMISES when Dealing with Serious Secret Sin in the Church v18-20

**Assurance of Heavenly Results-Throughout the Procedure Even in the Worst Case Scenario (Step 3) v18** Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in Heaven; and whatever you loose on Earth shall have been loosed in Heaven.

**Assurance of Heavenly Response-Especially in the Best Case Scenario (Step 1) v19** Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on Earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in Heaven.

**Assurance of Heavenly Involvement-In the Midst of the Procedure (Step 2) v20** For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.

