



Dealing Properly With Wandering Christians Matthew 18:12-20

- 1) Some true Christians wander away from the Faith (18:12a)
- 2) Christ goes in search for His straying sheep (12b)
- 3) There is great joy for all when sinners repent (13)
- 4) The church must oversee and protect its members (14)
- 5) There is a proper method for restoration of sinners (15-17)
 - a) He must be privately confronted
 - i) If he repents, the matter is over
 - ii) If he refuses to repent...
 - b) Two to three others must confront him
 - i) If he repents, the matter is over
 - ii) If he refuses to repent...
 - c) The matter must be taken before church members
 - i) If he repents, the matter is over
 - ii) If he refuses to repent...
 - d) The brother is to be removed from the assembly (cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-13)
 - i) Treated as a lost person in need of Christ's love
 - ii) Believers cannot eat with such a one (1 Cor. 5:11)
 - iii) Disassociation; exhort him as a brother (2 Thess. 3:14-15)
- 6) Acting biblically, the church has heavenly authority (18-20)
 - a) Two or three witnesses confirm official matters (cf. Deut. 19:15)
 - b) When two or three agree on matters of church discipline, so does God (cf. James 5:16)
- 7) Observations
 - a) Some fall into sin and never repent
 - b) Church discipline does not fix everyone
 - c) Church discipline is the most loving way to treat believers