

## I. Imitating the Good Shepherd by *Seeking* after Straying Sheep. v.12

## II. Applying the Formula of the Good Shepherd for *Restoring* Straying Sheep. vv.15-17

A. The three step \_\_\_\_\_ for straying sheep.

1. Go to them in \_\_\_\_\_. v.15

If he hears you have gained your brother and the matter ends.  
If he will not hear you move to #2.

2. Take one or two \_\_\_\_\_. v.16                      cf. Lev.19:15

If he hears you have gained your brother and the matter ends.  
If he refuses to hear them move to #3.

3. Tell it to the \_\_\_\_\_. v.17

If he hears the church you have gained your brother and the matter ends.  
If he refuses to hear the church he is to be considered as a heathen and tax collector.  
Cf. 1 Cor.5:1-13; 2 Thess.3:6,14,15; Titu.1:10-14; 3:9-11

B. Practical application for applying these steps.

1. The goal is \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's church must be maintained.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ your own heart before confronting a sinning brother. Cf. Gal.6:1

4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ when you are confronted by another brother.

## III. Assurance from the Good Shepherd in the *Process* of Restoring Straying Sheep. vv.18-20

"Jesus instituted church discipline by authorizing the apostles to prohibit or permit certain kinds of behavior; this is the power of 'binding and loosing' sins. The 'keys of the kingdom' first given to Peter and defined as power to bind and loose have usually been understood as authority to oversee doctrine and impose discipline. This authority was given by Christ to the church in general and to its ordained leadership in particular." Geneva Study Bible