

TWO LAWS OF PARDON

- Sin separates man from God
 - Isa 59:1-2
- Two laws of pardon seen in one chapter – Acts 8
 - For the sinner who is outside Christ
 - The man of Ethiopia
 - Verses 27-40
 - For one in Christ who sins
 - Simon, who previously practiced sorcery
 - Verses 18-24
 - I John 1:8-9
- Two plans – one for those outside of Christ; one for those in Christ
- **What if my brother is overtaken in a sin?**

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- Step 1 – Go to Your Brother

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- If your brother is overtaken in a sin, and you see it, do you have any responsibility in the matter?
- Go to him
- Galatians 6:1-5
 - Why? To restore
 - Restore = “to bring back to or put back into a former or original state”
 - Restore to what state?
 - What was his state before sin? Right with God
 - But sin separates one from God
 - Restore him to the right relationship with God!

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- If your brother sins against you, do you have any responsibility in the matter?
- Go to him
- Matthew 18:15-17
 - Why? “Gain your brother”
 - Is he not already my brother? What needs to be “gained” then?
 - Yes, he is my brother, but he has sinned, has not made it right yet, and he is therefore not right with God
 - We want our brother to be right with God!

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- If your brother wanders from the truth, and you see it, do you have any responsibility in the matter?
- Go to him
- James 5:19-20
 - Why? “Turn him back”
 - Turn him from what?
 - “the error of his way”
 - Turn him back to what?
 - “the truth”
 - But why turn him back?
 - Save his soul from death!
 - Death = separation from God

THE WRONG APPROACH

- If your brother is overtaken in sin, and you see it, do you have any responsibility in the matter?
- Excuses:
 - “That’s his business, not mine”
 - “I don’t want to get involved in that; it won’t turn out well”
 - “I have my own faults too”
 - “I’m not to judge others”
 - “This is not comfortable for me”
- Instead: What does God tell me to do in this situation?
 - Follow the Lord’s method for resolution

THE WRONG REASON

- Why try to restore you brother? Why try to gain your brother? Why try to turn your brother back to the truth?
 - You love him and you want him to be saved eternally
- Not:
 - “I’ll show him who’s better”
 - “This will be a good way to get rid of him”
 - “Now we can hang out together again”

GO TO WHOM?

- If your brother is overtaken in sin, and you see it, who should you go to?
- Go to him!
 - Ax 8:20 – “But Peter said **to him...**”
 - Gal 2:11-14 – “I withstood **him** to his face....I said **to Peter** before them all...”
- Ax 18:26 (a teaching issue) – “they took him aside and explained...”
- Don't:
 - Go tell someone else

HOW SHOULD YOU GO?

- Remember, this is an issue of sin
 - I John 3:4
- Go with the law of Christ, the perfect law of liberty
 - Jas 1:25
 - 1 John 2:3-6
- Manner?
 - Meekness, considering yourself – Gal 6:1
 - Love “does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth” – I Cor 13:6

WHAT IS NOT THE WAY?

- Social media
- Email
- Facebook
- Texting

RESPONSES TO TRUTH

- The Right Response
 - Receive
 - Penitent
 - Ax 2:37, 41
 - Ax 8:24
- The Wrong Response
 - Reject
 - Ax 24:25 (delay)
 - Ax 6:10-12
 - Ax 13:45

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

- You went to him to try to restore him
 - Mt 18:15
 - Either
 - Mt 18:15
 - “He hears you” – implies repentance
- OR
- Mt 18:16
 - “He will not hear you” – implies impenitence (no repentance)

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- Step 1 – Go to Your Brother
- Step 2 if necessary – Go to your brother with witnesses

WHAT IF A BROTHER WON'T REPENT?

- You went to him – Mt 18:16 – and he didn't repent
- Then step 2
- Matthew 18:16 – Go to him with one or two more
- Manner?
 - Same manner as before
 - Don't:
 - Get angrier
 - Campaign against him in the hearing of others
 - Gossip

ISN'T MATTHEW 18:15-17 ABOUT SOMEONE SINNING AGAINST YOU?

- Yes, the teaching is how to handle a brother who sins against you
- But the first step is no different than the teaching in Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19-20, which is not necessarily a sin against you
- In both cases, the issue being resolved is a brother's sin, and the intention is to save him
- When it is not a sin against you personally, is it wrong to make a second attempt to save the brother by bringing a witness or two?
 - Wisdom would say the truth of the matter could be established by impartial witnesses before bringing it to the church

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF STEP 2

- Step 2: You went to him to try to restore him, and you brought one or two more
 - Mt 18:16
- **Either**
 - Implied that he will hear you – implies repentance
- OR
- Mt 18:17
 - “He refuses to hear them” – implies impenitence (no repentance)

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- Step 1 – Go to Your Brother
- Step 2 if necessary – Go to your brother with witnesses
- Step 3 if necessary – Take it to the church

IF HE DOESN'T REPENT, THEN WHAT?

- In Matthew 18:15-17, we now have a guilty brother who will not repent
 - Implied:
 - Sin has been established by evidence and confirmed by witnesses
- Step 3 – Matthew 18:17
 - Tell the matter to the church
- Why tell the church?
 - So the church can admonish the guilty one to repent
 - Implied by “But if he refuses even to hear the church...”
- Goal:
 - Implied – still to gain your brother – to save his soul

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF STEP 3

- Step 3: You told it to the church, and the church has admonished him
 - Mt 18:17
 - Either
 - Implied – he hears and repents, in which case you have gained your brother
- OR
- Mt 18:17
 - “He refuses even to hear the church” – implies impenitence (no repentance)

BIBLE RESTORATION PLAN

- Step 1 – Go to Your Brother
- Step 2 if necessary – Go to your brother with witnesses
- Step 3 if necessary – Take it to the church
- Step 4 if necessary – Withdraw yourselves

IF HE REFUSES EVEN TO HEAR THE CHURCH?

- In Matthew 18:17, we have a guilty brother who will not repent even when hearing the church
- Next Action
 - “Let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector”
- This expression indicates withdrawal
 - The idea is expressed by “withdraw yourselves” in other places
 - This is church action
 - What is this brother lacking? Repentance.
- The purpose is to bring him to repentance – to gain your brother – to save his soul

THE DESIRED OUTCOME

- The purpose of the withdrawal is **still** to bring him to repentance, to be right with God
- We will learn in other places yet other purposes
- The motive and purpose is modeled after the motive and purpose of our Father in Heaven
 - Matthew 18:10-14
- But what if he doesn't ever repent?
 - Does that change the truth taught by Jesus and the apostles?
 - No
 - Does that possibility excuse obedience to the command?
 - No

CHURCH ACTION

- Already seen: Matthew 18:17
- I Corinthians 5:4-5
 - Fornicator, living in sin
 - Implied: Impenitent
 - Church action: verse 4-5
 - Involves withdrawal from social interaction with him
 - Verse 11 – “not to keep company with...”; “not even to eat with such a person”
- This sin was known by the whole church
- Note: If 2 Corinthians 2:3-11 refers to the brother of 1 Corinthians 5, then the withdrawal had its intended effect on the brother, and the church is to forgive, comfort, confirm your love toward him!

CHURCH ACTION

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14
 - “Walks disorderly”
 - Walks “not according to the tradition which he received from us”
 - Tradition – 2:15
 - “Does not obey our word in this epistle”
- This person is impenitent
 - Note the present tense of the verbs
- Church action:
 - “withdraw from”
 - “do not keep company with”
 - “do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother”

CHURCH ACTION

- Romans 16:17-18
 - “those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned”
- What is the danger of these men?
 - “by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”
- Church action:
 - Note, mark
 - Avoid them

SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- Written to Timothy, who was doing the work of an evangelist in Ephesus
 - But Paul is giving instructions for how things ought to be in the church there
- “From such withdraw yourself”
- From whom?
 - Verse 3-5
- An instruction to just Timothy?
 - No, such instructions were to be taught to others
 - 2 Timothy 2:2

SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS

- Titus 3:9-10
- Written to Titus, who most acknowledge was doing the work of an evangelist in Crete
 - But Paul is giving instructions for how things ought to be in the church there
- “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition (warning)”

WITHDRAW FROM WHOM?

- 2 Thess 3:6, 11
 - Those who walk disorderly
 - Those who walk not according to the tradition which they received from us [the apostles]
 - Those who do not obey our [apostles'] word in this epistle
- Titus 3:10
 - Divisive, factious man
- Rom 16:17
 - Those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you learned

WITHDRAW FROM WHOM?

- I Corinthians 5:11
 - Fornicator
 - Covetous
 - Idolator
 - Reviler
 - Drunkard
 - Extortioner
 - Note: meant to be comprehensive list? Murderer not here; see Galatians 5 for works of the flesh

WITHDRAW FROM WHOM?

- Matt 18:15-17
 - Those who will not repent of a sin against another
- I Timothy 6:3-5
 - Anyone who teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness
- Common thread in all these Scriptures:
 - Those who are living in sin; not walking according to the doctrine of Christ

UNBIBLICAL WORDS

- “Excommunicated”
- “Kicked out”
- “Thrown out of the church”
- “It drives people away”
- “It doesn’t work”
- “Do you think it will work?”

These words do not portray the spirit of love for our brethren and love for the commands of God!

PURPOSE OF WITHDRAWING?

- Save the soul of the one sinning
 - I Corinthians 5:5
 - Therefore, corrective
- Save other souls in the church from the leaven of evil
 - Romans 16:18
 - I Corinthians 5:6
 - 2 Timothy 2:16-18
 - Therefore, protective

PURPOSE OF WITHDRAWING?

- Maintain the honor and authority of Christ
 - Eph 1:22
 - It's the Lord's command!
 - 2 Pet 2:2
 - Ax 5:1-11
 - Save your own soul because it's the Lord's command

GOD HAS A RESTORATION PLAN

- If your brother is overtaken in a sin, and you see it, do you have any responsibility in the matter?
 - Yes!
- Love God, love the truth, love your brother by trying to restore your brother
- Believe and obey God's plan for restoring the erring