



Will Mackey – The Power of Unity, Series – November 13, 2011

## What To Do When Offended By Another Christian

(Matthew 18:15-22 & Luke 17:3-4)

1. Pursue reconciliation with the brother/sister who has offended you. Don't wait for him/her to come to you.

*"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault..."  
(Matt. 18:15a)*

2. Maintain a heart of mercy/grace toward the offending brother/sister. He/she is more valuable to God and you than the debt owed you.

*"...Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (Matt. 18:21-22)*

3. Protect the offending brother/sister's reputation.

*"...show him his fault, just between the two of you..."  
(Matt. 18:15b)*

4. If no satisfactory conclusion is reached, ask one or two mutually respected people to meet with the two of you to help settle the matter.

*"...But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." (Matt. 18:16)*

5. If still no satisfactory conclusion is reached, take the matter to your church leadership.

*"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church..."  
(Matt. 18:17a)*

6. If the offending brother/sister will not listen to church leadership, then you may remove yourself from a place of trust and fellowship with the offender.

*"...and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." (Matt. 18:17b)*