

A TIME TO HEAL
“A Time to Confront”
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Matt. 18:15-17 (ESV)

TO OVERLOOK OR NOT OVERLOOK

I. **It is appropriate to overlook minor sins** (Prov. 19:11). An offense should be overlooked if I can answer "no" to all of the following questions:

- Is the offense dishonoring to God?
- Has it damaged my relationship with the offender?
- Is it hurting or might it hurt other people?
- Is it hurting the offender?

II. **If a sin is too serious to overlook, then I must go and tell the offender his/her fault** (Mat. 18:15-17).

1. First, lovingly talk to the offender one-on-one (v. 15) (Gal. 6:1)
2. If the offender does not listen, then seek mediation from one or two others (v. 16)
3. If the offender does not listen, then seek mediation from mature spiritual advisors (v. 17a)
4. If the offender still does not listen, then exercise discipline.

WHAT IF THE OFFENDER IS UNREASONABLE

I. **Recognize my limits** — I don't have the power to change people and God doesn't expect me to.

II. **Measure success correctly** — God does not measure success in terms of results, but in terms of faithful obedience.

III. **Keep the door open** — I must resolve not to give up finding a biblical solution.

CENTRAL TRUTH:

If a sin is too serious to overlook, then I must lovingly speak to my offender about the sin that was committed against me.

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Going Deeper into the Message

1. Which is easier for you....confronting someone whom you have sinned against or confronting someone who has sinned against you? Why?
2. What do you possibly stand to gain or lose by confronting the person who has sinned against you?
3. Why is it so important to have taken the log out of your own eye first before confronting your offender about a sin that he/she has committed against you? (Review last week's notes if necessary)
4. Review the four-step process in Matthew 18:15-17. What thoughts and/or questions come to mind as you consider these steps?
5. Describe a current or past conflict of yours. If the offender does not listen after you've attempted the first three steps, what disciplinary action can you take? Solicit ideas from your group. [Remember, discipline is not to be punitive. Instead, it's purpose is to help the offender to repent with the goal of restoring the relationship].
6. Which statement under "*What if the Offender is Unreasonable*" is most meaningful to you? Why?

Responding to the Message

7. What one insight from the message seems most personally significant to you right now and what action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice or to cooperate with God in bringing about this transformation?