

**Sermon Outline**  
“Restoring One Another”  
Matthew 18:15-20

- I. Flow of the passage (vv. 6-20 form a distinct whole)
  - A. Warning against being the *cause* of a brother’s stumbling vv. 6-9
  - B. Admonition to *rescue and restore* a brother who stumbles vv. 10-20
    - 1. **Do not** put a low value on your brother vv. 10-14
    - 2. **Do** invest in your brother’s rescue from sin vv. 15-20  
(*cf.* Gal 6:1-3)
  
- II. Consideration of the text
  - A. “You” in vv. 15-17 is singular
  - B. A “trespass against you” v. 15
    - 1. Textual issue regarding “against you.”
    - 2. Significance in the context
  - C. Personal responsibility to go and restore vv. 15-17a
    - 1. First, one-on-one – reproof (*cf.* Lev 19:15-18)
    - 2. Second, with witnesses (citing Dt 19:15)
    - 3. Third, bringing the matter to the church
  - D. Treatment of the unrepentant person v. 17b
    - 1. “You” is still singular
    - 2. Heathen and publicans are objectives for evangelism
  - E. Affirmation of church authority vv. 18-20 (*cf.* 16:19; Jn 15:7)
    - 1. Immediate context: wandering sheep
    - 2. Larger context: humility between brothers
    - 3. Verse 20 is not a *definition* of the church (*cf.* I Cor 5:1-5)
    - 4. The “binding” refers to v. 17, not v. 16.
  - F. Significant effort to restore is required, because it is “not pleasing” to “**your Father**” that one be lost v. 14
  
- III. The behavior of the Church, the Body of Christ – Matt 18
  - A Humble yourselves as children of God vv. 1-5
    - B Do not be a cause of stumbling vv. 6-9
      - C Do not treat your brother as less important vv. 10-14
    - B<sup>1</sup> Restore your brother when he stumbles vv. 15-20
  - A<sup>1</sup> Treat one another with forgiveness as God forgives you vv. 21-35