

Forgive, as You Have Been Forgiven Part Two- Matthew 18:18-20

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 18:18

Main Point: Forgiveness means that we let God be the judge *and* render the final verdict.

What does it mean to “bind” or “loose”?

Bind- *deo*: vb (opp. loose)- to have both the teaching authority and disciplinary power to permit or forbid certain behavior. To impose or remove a ban or sentence; to expel from or receive back a member of a congregation.

Can I “bind” or “loose”?

- No one person can bind or loose. The verb is plural. When put in place with the context of the passage, the plural agency is the church.
- The force of the verb and structure of the sentence is such that the decision is already made in heaven. The church only has the job to search the Scriptures and prayerfully seek the will of God.
- “Binding” someone in the church (i.e. to discipline to the point of expelling) should only come when the discipline/forgiveness process of Matthew 18:15-17 has been thoroughly exhausted.

Point One: Seek to let _____ judge, not our personal feelings.

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”

Matthew 7:1 (NIV)

In other words- “Don’t render a verdict on someone else, or you too will have a verdict pronounced on you.”

Point Two: Forgiveness is always the _____.

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Colossians 3:13

Point Three: Where true reconciliation and forgiveness is sought, Jesus is _____.

The promise of Jesus’ presence is that if two people in the church reach reconciliation and forgiveness on their own, it will be recognized by God the Father.

Conclusion: No one individual has the power or authority to be the judge of another person. That is God’s business. We must do whatever it takes to seek forgiveness and restoration.

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams
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Next week: Part Three- Matthew 18:21-35