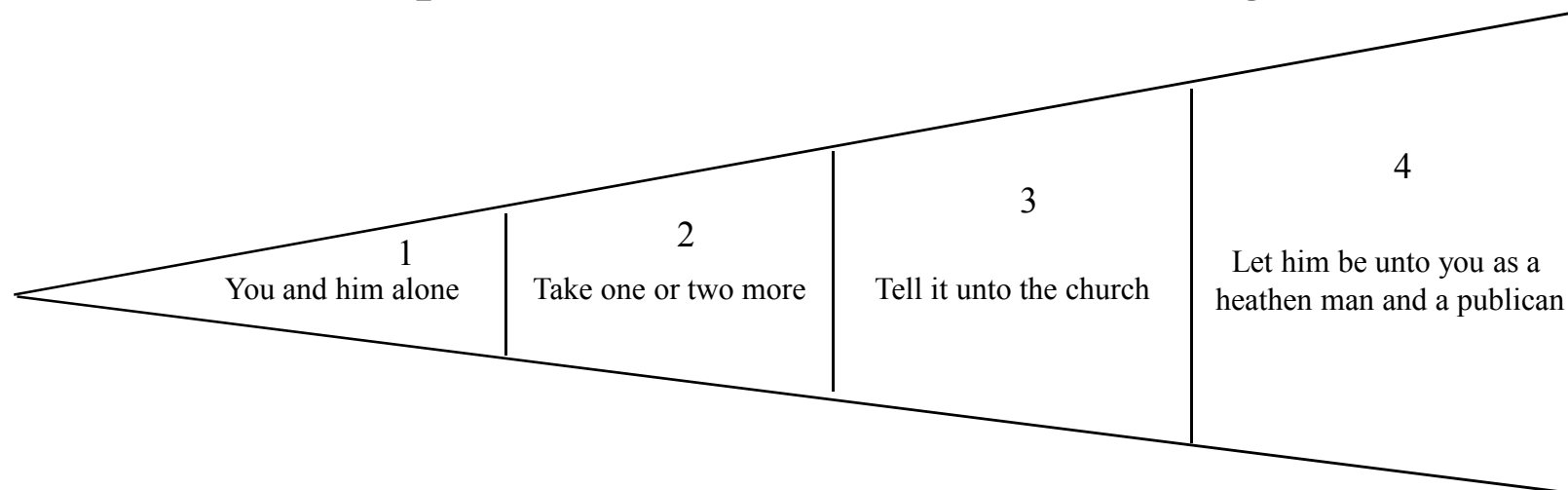


Discipline and Restoration of a Sinning Brother



If your brother trespass against you,

1. Forgive in your heart, putting away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and malice (Mk 11:25; Eph 4:31; Heb 12:15). Do not speak evil of him to another, but show all meekness (1Pet 3:9,10; Eph 4:31; James 4:11; Titus 3:2). Seek peace and pursue it (1Pet 3:11). Do him good in return (1Pet 3:9-11; 1Thes 5:15; Mat 5:44). Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone, rebuking him (Mat 18:15; Lk 17:3). If he repents, forgive him (Luke 17:3,4; Mat 18:15; Col 3:13).

If he will not hear you,

2. then take one or two more believers for witnesses (Matt 18:16). If he repents, forgive him (Luke 17:3,4; Mat 18:15; Col 3:13). If a man be overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual, restore him in the spirit of meekness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted (Gal 6:1; Mat 7:1-5). Against an elder, receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses (1Tim 5:19).

If he neglects to hear them,

3. tell it to the church (Matt 18:17). Elders that sin, rebuke before all, that others also may fear (1Tim 5:20; Gal 2:11-14; 3Jn 1:9-11).

If he neglects to hear the church,

4. let him be to you as a heathen man and a publican (Matt 18:17). If a brother walks disorderly, withdraw yourself from him (2Thes 3:6), delivering him unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, putting the wicked person away from among you (1Cor 5:5,7,13). Do not keep company with him and do not eat with him, that he may be ashamed (1Cor 5:9,11; 2Thes 3:14). This punishment is inflicted that he may learn not to sin and to restore him and save his spirit in the day of the Lord Jesus (1Tim 1:20; 2Cor 2:5-9; 1Cor 5:5). It also must be done to prevent him from damaging the church (1Cor 5:5,7,13). Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother (2Thes 3:15). Do not inflict excessive punishment (2Cor 2:6). If he repents, forgive him, comfort him, and confirm your love toward him, lest perhaps he is swallowed up with too much sorrow (Luke 17:3,4; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13; 2Cor 2:6,7; 2Cor 12:19 thru 13:2).