

Tough Love

Matthew 18:15-20

Getting Started

What was one of your most painful – but necessary – trips to the doctor?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 18:15-17.** Describe the setting.
2. What is the first step that Jesus says we are to take if a fellow-Christian sins against us?
3. How do we balance the instructions in this first step with the teaching in the following passage to forgive? In other words, how do we decide when to just forgive and bear with others, and when we need to confront another believer?
4. What attitude should we have when confronting another believer? (cf. Galatians 6:1)
5. What is the goal of this personal confrontation (v. 15)?
6. What is the second step we are to take, if our fellow-believer will not listen? (16)
7. What is the purpose of taking one or two witnesses?
8. What is the third step we are to take? (17a)
9. What do you think this means to *tell it to the church*?
10. What is the purpose of telling it to the church? (Consider what is implied by the phrase: *if he refuses to listen.*)
11. What is the last step we are to take, if the brother or sister will not listen to others in the church? (17b)
12. How do verses 18-20 fit into the context? What decisions and prayers are probably in view?



Getting Personal

- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Is there someone you need to confront?
- Is there someone from whom you need to ask forgiveness?