

# 5 Steps | Matthew 18:15-18

Accountability & Discipline

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

**Step 2.** Private one-on-one conversation.

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

**Step 2.** Private one-on-one conversation.

**Step 3.** Private conversation with 1-2 other witnesses.

# Witness Defined:

**Witness** - A witness is normally someone who has personally observed a sin or pattern of sin in someone's life (Deut 19:15; Matt 18:15-16). A witness may also be a mature believer who can help establish a behavior or action as sinful based on Scripture, even if they have not necessarily observed the action itself.

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

**Step 2.** Private one-on-one conversation.

**Step 3.** Private conversation with 1-2 other witnesses.

**Step 4.** Present this issue to the church members.

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

**Step 2.** Private one-on-one conversation.

**Step 3.** Private conversation with 1-2 other witnesses.

**Step 4.** Present this issue to the church members.

**Step 5.** Church members enact church discipline.

## **The members may enact church discipline by:**

- A. Officially declaring that they do not recognize the confession of faith of the unrepentant sinner and identify them as a non-believer;
- B. Removing the non-believer from church membership;
- C. Refusing to serve the Lord's Supper to the non-believer; and
- D. Calling the non-believer to repentance and faith.



# What did Jesus do?

## **Matthew 11:19a (ESV)**

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

# **Accountability & Discipline: 5 Steps**

**Step 1.** Prayerful self-examination and discernment.

**Step 2.** Private one-on-one conversation.

**Step 3.** Private conversation with 1-2 other witnesses.

**Step 4.** Present this issue to the church members.

**Step 5.** Church members enact church discipline.