

Together in His Name
Matthew 18:14-35

Review:

1. God has forgiven us of rebellion against His Divine Majesty, so we should be willing wholeheartedly to forgive the much less serious harms even our worst enemies have caused us
2. We must seek reconciliation with those who have hurt us, not so that we might be vindicated, but so that they might no longer be deceived about their spiritual condition, but instead be restored to the fellowship of believers
3. Reconciliation between Christians is critical because God's presence among us is magnified when we come together in agreement

Reflect:

1. Are you holding onto grudges or resentments against those who have hurt you? What steps can you take to move toward reconciliation with them?

Go further: Read I Corinthians 12:12-27

1. To what does Paul compare Christ in verse 12?
2. Who is responsible for baptizing believers into the Body of Christ? What kinds of people have been drawn together in this way?
3. In verses 15 and 16, why does Paul say the statements made by our feet and ears are incorrect?
4. According to verse 17, why is it important that the different parts of our bodies are able to do different things?
5. What does Paul say in verse 18 that God has done for our bodies?
6. What does Paul say in verse 21 that eyes and heads should not say to hands and feet?
7. In verse 22, what parts of the body does Paul insist are necessary to the whole? Can you give an example of one of these?
8. In verses 23-24, Paul says that some parts of our body are more honorable, and some are less presentable. How does he say we treat the "less honorable" parts of our bodies?
9. In verse 24, what does Paul say God has done to the parts of the body of Christ that are less honorable?
10. What does verse 25 say that members of the body of Christ should do for each other?
11. How does verse 26 describe the way Christians should treat each other?
12. Who does Paul say that Christians are collectively in verse 27? Who are we individually?
13. In verse 28, what three different types of leaders does Paul say God has given to the Church?
14. What five types of abilities does Paul say God has given to different members of the Church?
15. What does Paul say in verse 31 that all Christians should desire?

Summary and Application:

1. What distinct gifts and talents do different members of your congregation contribute to the whole? How can you use your own abilities to be a blessing to other members of your congregation?
2. What point do you think Paul is trying to make with his series of questions in verses 29 and 30? How can we avoid envying other people for the gifts God has given to them?