

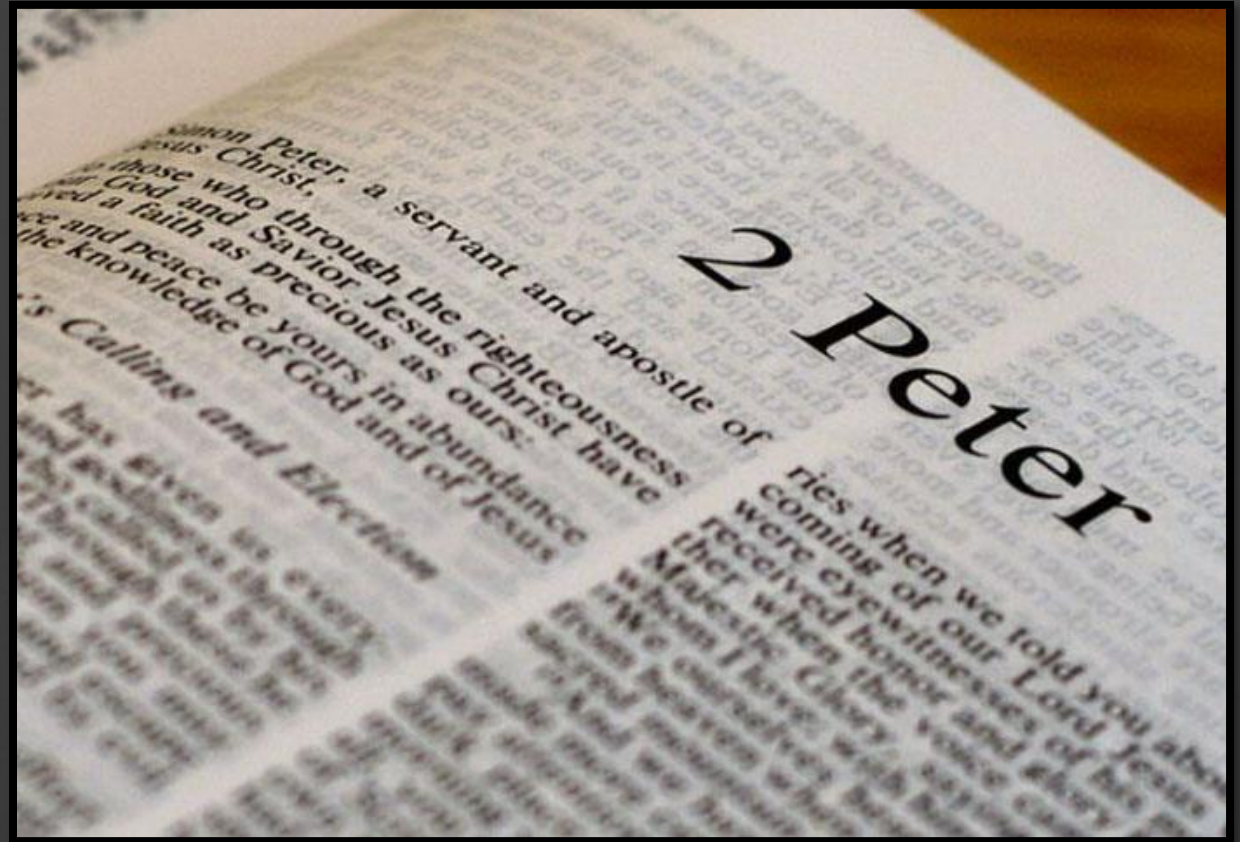
**IF YE DO
THESE
THINGS,
YE SHALL
NEVER
FALL**



Lesson Eight

Brotherly Kindness

Peter promised that
“If ye do these things,
ye shall never fall.”



The first six charges speak to the spiritual development of the individual believer, and the strengthening of his relationship with God:

2 Peter 1:5-6

- 5 And beside this, giving all diligence,
add to your **faith**
virtue;
and to virtue **knowledge;**
- 6 And to knowledge **temperance;**
and to temperance **patience;**
and to patience **godliness;**

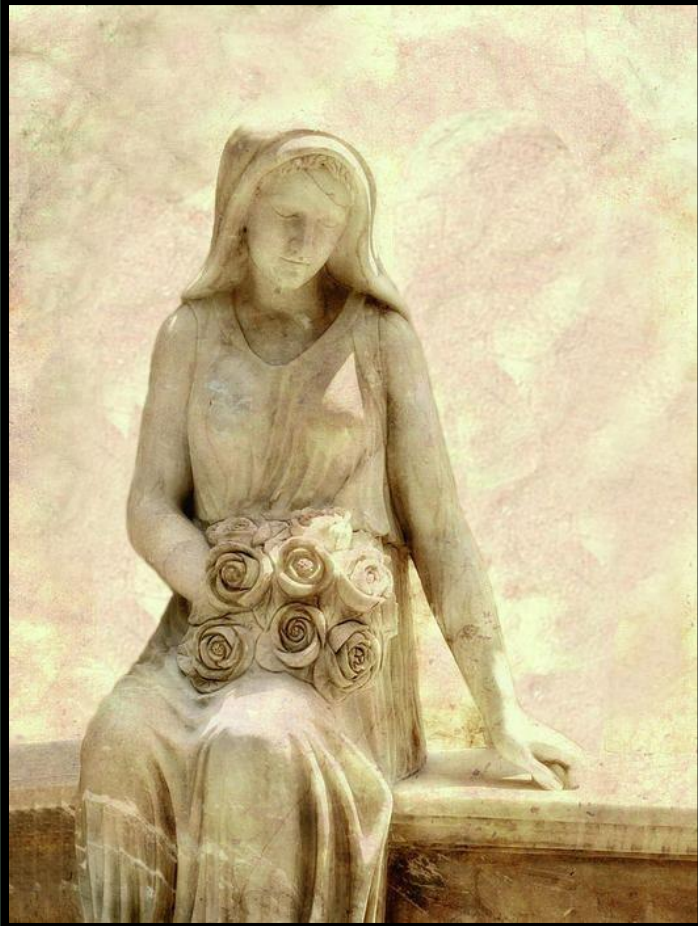




We now come to the first charge that speaks to an individual Christian's relationship with other members of the Church:

1 Corinthians 12:14

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many.



We have seen that extending kindness to strangers is an important aspect of our faith.



Hebrews 13:2

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.



But extending kindness to strangers is one thing.

Maintaining good relations with the people you see *everyday* is something else.



"I much prefer random acts of kindness to the habitual ones."

The first time you attend a new church, the people may seem a bit over-zealous to have you join in.





Need a wake-up call?

Need a ride?

Need a donut?

You *skip* the rope and like it!



But we don't
like it when you
skip coming

**WE MISSED YOU
AND WANT YOU TO COME SUNDAY!**

But after some time, your attendance becomes *expected*.

Miss a service once in a while, and you might get a cheery reprimand.

Miss a few more, and you might get a stern rebuke!



Too busy for
Jesus?



Oh dear Lord.
Not again...

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT

That is how do we get
from this ...



...to this.



Social relationships are *conditional* relationships.

Proverbs 18:24

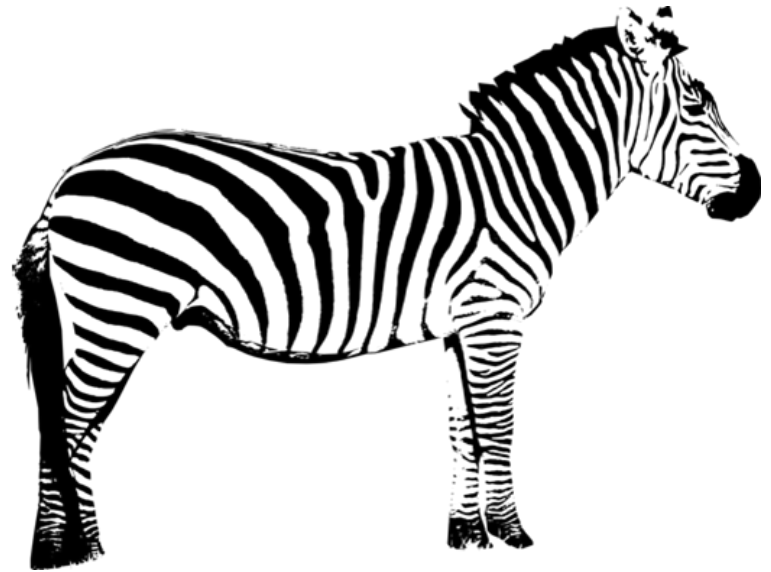
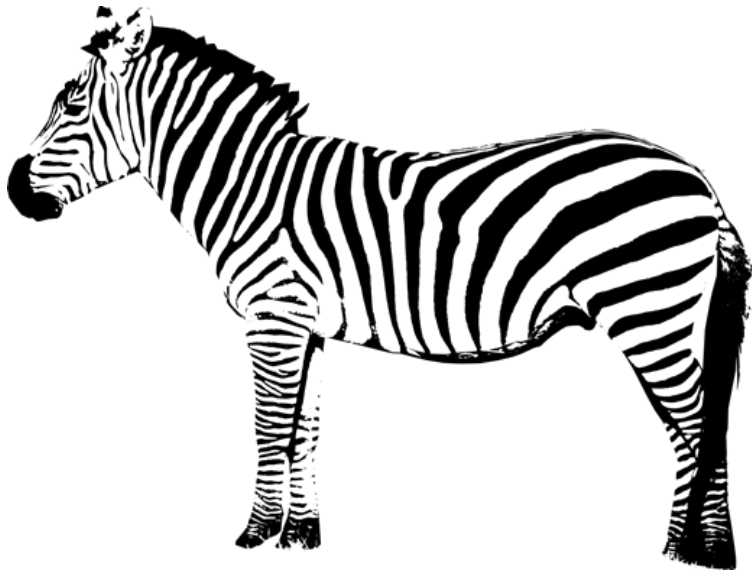
A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly:
and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.



Nothing can kill a relationship like an offense.

Proverbs 18:19

A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city:
and *their contentions are* like the bars of a castle.



Perhaps this is why Jesus spent so much time teaching his disciples how to foster reconciliation in the Church.



To understand the path to reconciliation,
we must understand the key concepts of
the Lord's message:

Luke 6:37

Judge not, and ye shall not be
judged:

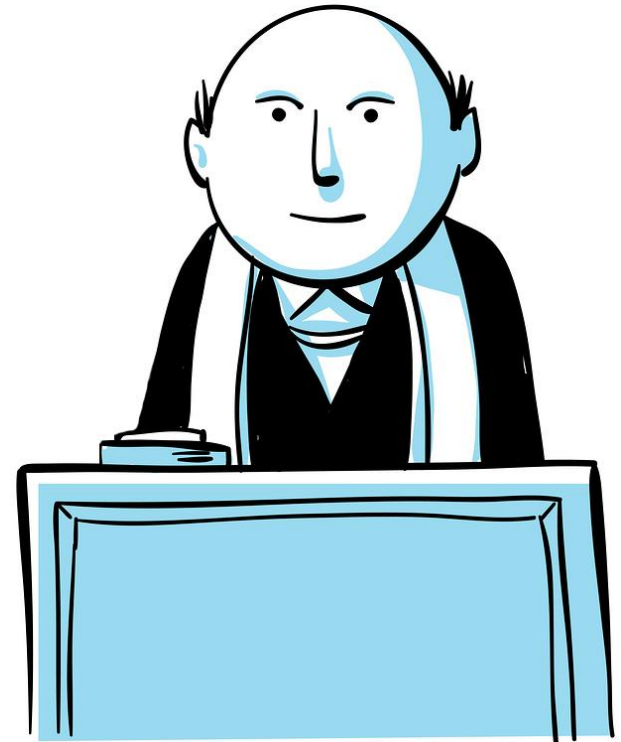
condemn not, and ye shall not be
condemned:

forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:



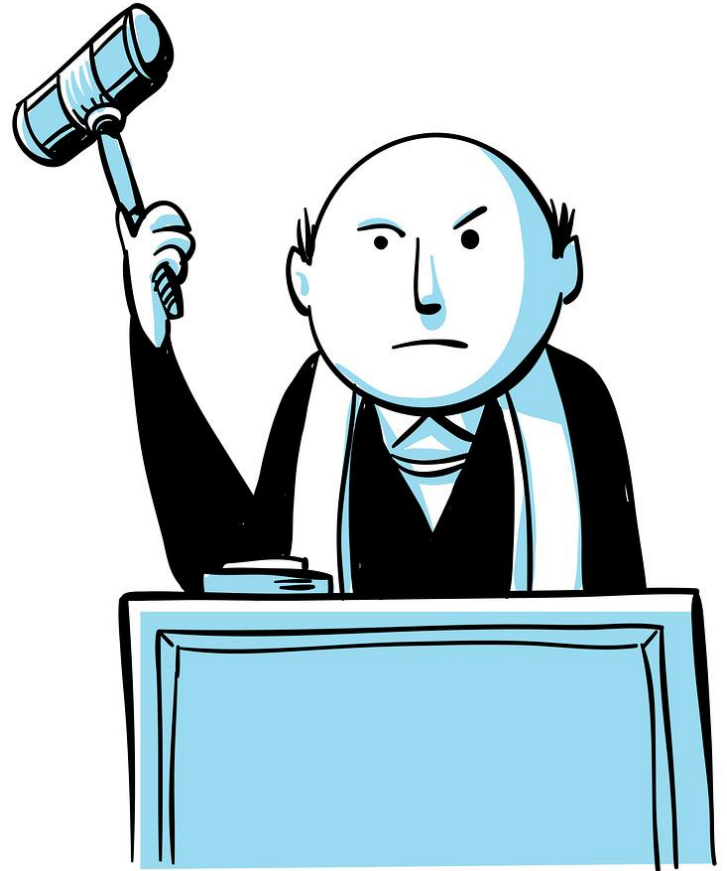
In most societies, transgressions against civil law are resolved in three steps:

- Upon the presentation of evidence, the accused person is **judged** regarding his innocence or guilt.



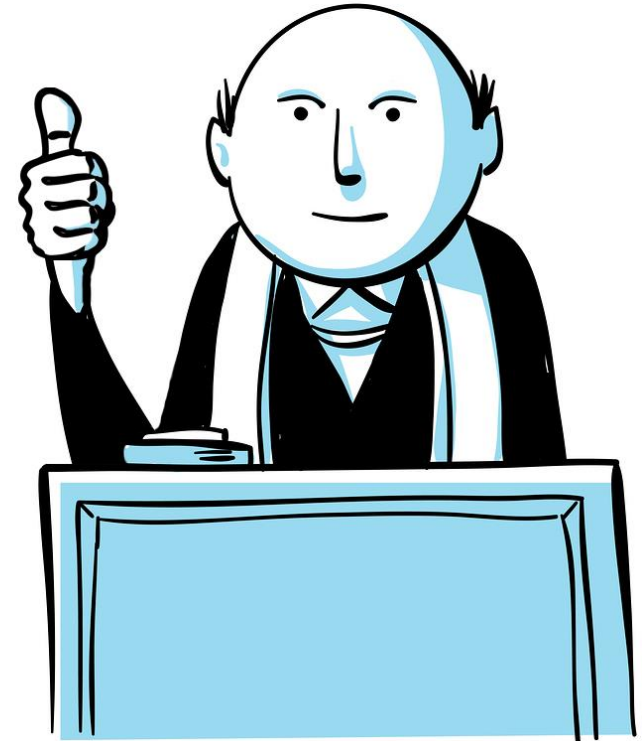
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- If he is found guilty, he is sentenced for punishment, or **condemned**.



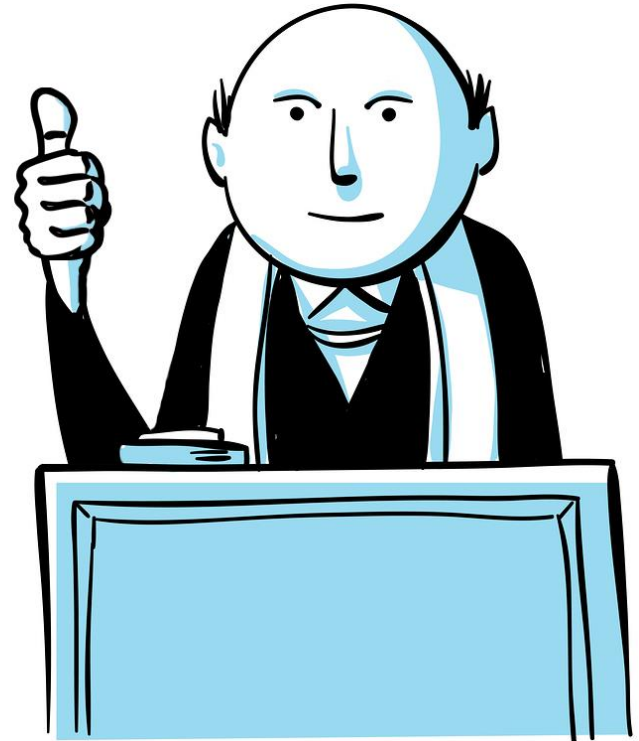
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Luke 6:37 must be understood in light of
2 Timothy 3:16:

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All scripture *is* given by inspiration
of God, and *is* profitable for
doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in
righteousness:



To **JUDGE NOT** does not mean you do away with correct DOCTRINE.

Luke 6:37

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:

condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned:

forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

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for doctrine,

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To **CONDEMN NOT** does not mean you eliminate **REPROOF**.

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To **FORGIVE** does not mean you forsake **CORRECTION**.

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All scripture is given by inspiration
of God, and is profitable
for doctrine,
for reproof,
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for instruction in righteousness:

We are not to suspend *all* judgment,
but rather we are told:

“Judge not according to the appearance,
but judge **righteous judgment.**”
(John 7:24)



It is not your business to judge your brother or sister's standing before God.

Romans 14:4

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?
to his own master he standeth or falleth.
Yea, he shall be holden up:
for God is able to make him stand.



Our sins far outweigh the legal requirements of holiness.



Holiness

Our Sins

After a lifetime of service, we
might nudge the scales a hair.



Holiness

Our Sins

But the blood of Christ outweighs
all of our sins.



Christ's Sacrifice

Our Sins



Before you judge someone,
walk a mile in their shoes.

Every time we point at someone, we point three back at ourselves.



Matthew 7:1-2

- ¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged.
- ² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged:
and with what measure ye mete,
it shall be measured to you again.





We all need to avoid hypocrisy:

Matthew 7:3-5

- 3 And why beholdest thou the **mote** that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the **beam** that is in thine own eye?
- 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?
- 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

To “condemn not” is not to deny the consequence of sin.

Jeremiah 23:17

They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.



To forgive is not to forsake the need for correction. It is to forsake *deserved punishment* in the name of mercy.

Nehemiah 9:30-31

- ³⁰ Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.
- ³¹ Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou *art* a gracious and merciful God.



But too often, the call for forgiveness is *weaponized* against the one who was hurt.

In the name of forgiveness, battered wives are sent home to suffer further violence.

What do you mean, you don't forgive me?



Wolves in sheep's clothing are given another chance to feed off the flock.

I'm sorry
that I was
caught!



Christians are instructed to excel in forgiveness:

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.



But when did God forgive you?
That is our model for forgiving others.

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1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



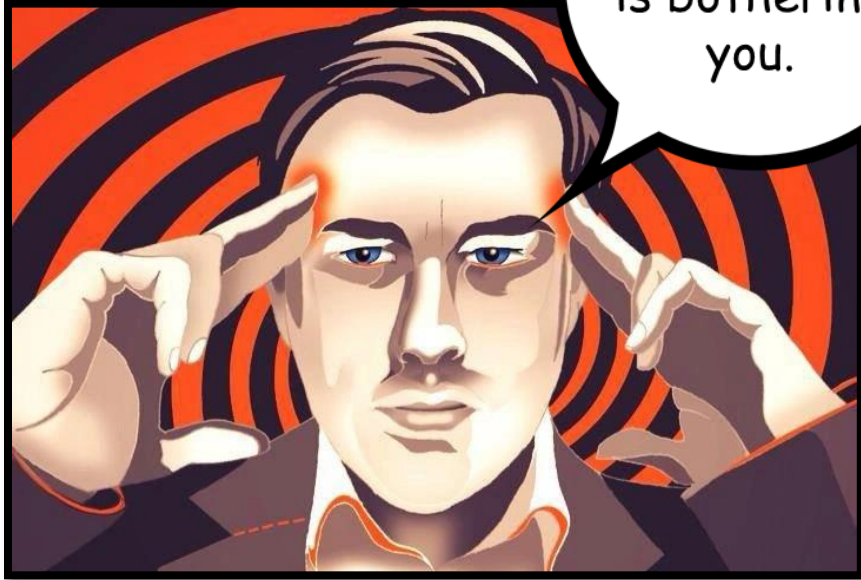
Christ alone has the authority to forgive sins against God.
But when we trespass against one another, there is an opportunity for forgiveness.

The ideal solution is to resolve the matter privately.

Matthew 18:15

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault **between thee and him alone**: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.






I know what
is bothering
you.

Don't expect anyone to read your mind.

Matthew 18:15

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, **go and tell him his fault** between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.





Walk right up to
me, baby.
Tell me, what have
I done wrong?

Take this advice from James Brown.

Don't keep things inside until they boil over.



Even reproof must be administered in kindness.

Galatians 6:1-2

- ¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
- ² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.



Before a trespass can be put to rest,
it must be (sincerely) acknowledged.

Matthew 18:15

Moreover if thy brother shall
trespass against thee, go and tell
him his fault between thee and him
alone: **if he shall hear thee**, thou
hast gained thy brother.



Before a trespass can be put to rest,
it must be (sincerely) acknowledged.

Luke 17:3-4

- 3 Take heed to yourselves:
If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; **and if he repent,** forgive him.
- 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, **I repent;** thou shalt forgive him.



God himself follows this pattern, making our sins known to us *before* he leads us to repentance:

Acts 17:30

And the times of this ignorance
God winked at;
but now commandeth all men
every where to repent:



When private confrontation does not produce an answer of peace, others must get involved.

Matthew 18:16

But if he will not hear *thee*, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.



It is the *agreement* of the witnesses that validates the charges.

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Mark 14:55-56

⁵⁵ And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

⁵⁶ For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.



If your brother *still* refuses to acknowledge his sin, you must alert the church.

And if he still doesn't change, you must no longer fellowship with him.

Matthew 18:17

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.



The same Bible that teaches us to judge not, condemn not, and forgive, also commands us to disassociate ourselves from Christians who choose to walk in darkness.

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

- ⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves** from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.
- ¹⁴ And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and **have no company with him**, that he may be ashamed.
- ¹⁵ Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.



What do you do when someone will not (or cannot) apologize? How do you put your grievance to rest?

You must leave things in the hand of the Almighty God, knowing that nothing gets past him.

1 Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.



When you put things into God's hands,
you free yourself from bitterness.

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and
anger, and clamour, and evil
speaking, be put away from you,
with all malice:





I forgive you for not being
who I want you to be.

**Of course, some things don't need
forgiveness at all.**

No one is owed forgiveness, not by God or you. Forgiveness is a gift, not an obligation.

But it *is* our Christian duty to be *ready* to forgive whenever the opportunity presents itself, and to pray that the opportunity *does* present itself, for their good more than ours.

Zechariah 7:8-9

- ⁸ And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying,
- ⁹ Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:



... even if it takes 490 acts of forgiveness to get the job done.

Matthew 18:21-22

- ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?
- ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.



It a blessing to be able to accept and offer forgiveness. As Christians, we will have many opportunities to enjoy both these blessings!

Remember the words of our Savior:

Matthew 25:34-40

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

The Bible speaks of kindness to the unsaved and saved (Galatians 6:10).
Kindness in the church (Ephesians 4:32)
Kindness at home (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Hebrews 13:1 says, “Let brotherly love continue.”
How could we possibly call ourselves Christians without it?

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How could we possibly call ourselves Christians without it?

And so, as Peter said, to godliness, we must add brotherly kindness.

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Up Next:
And to Brotherly Kindness, Charity



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