THE QUESTION

Did the early church keep the order of Matthew 18 when correcting a brother (Matthew 18:15–17)?

Asked by a THF member on May 26, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 15 early Christian passages and 195 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-keep-the-order-of-matthew-18-when-correcting-a-brother

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Yes. The early writers here keep the Gospel order: go to the person privately first, then bring witnesses, then tell the church. None of these passages gives leave to go to others first. They warn leaders not to believe a lone accuser or every story, and they call for quick, peaceful reconciliation.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

Correction follows the Gospel, in peace

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache ties the church's correction of one another straight to Matthew 18:15-17. It also sets the tone: correction is done without anger, in peace, the way the Gospel lays it out.

1 “And correct one another, not in anger but in peace, as you have it in the Gospel”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

The first step is a private talk

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen opens his comment on this passage with the first step: show the brother his fault alone. He then asks how far the rule reaches, noting that some say very grave sins put a person outside the name of brother.

2 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault between you and him alone.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Only after witnesses does it reach the church

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions picks up after the private talk and the witnesses. Only if the person hardens himself is it told to the church, and even then the door stays open for repentance.

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3 “If he is persuaded by the words of you three, that is good. But if anyone hardens himself, tell it to the church.”

later in the same passage

“But if he is willing to repent, receive him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Source 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
Apostolic Constitutions (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

One accuser alone is not enough

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Church judges were told not to act on one person's word, even a person with a good conscience. Witnesses were needed, and their way of life was examined, because two people can agree on a lie.

4 “Yet even if he has a good conscience, do not believe him alone, for that is contrary to the law.”

later in the same passage

“Because it often happens that two or more testify for evil purposes and, by agreeing together, present a lie.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Spreading accusations stirs up anger, not peace

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

The bishop is warned not to rush or believe every charge brought against a brother. Taking in such reports carelessly makes a person the cause of anger in the church. This shows how seriously they took careless reports about others.

5 “Yet he must not be hasty in cutting anyone off, nor believe every accusation.”

later in the same passage

“For he who receives such accusations is the author of anger rather than of peace.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 7

Staying silent is also a failure

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says Christ wants a sinning brother rebuked. Skipping that duty was itself a sin, whether out of hatred or out of a false kindness that spares him.

6 “If someone failed in this duty of correction, he actually sinned, either because out of hatred he wanted his brother to continue in sin, or because he spared him out of mistaken friendship, although he had the command in Leviticus: "You shall not hate your brother in your heart; you shall seriously rebuke your neighbor, and because of him you shall not take sin on yourself."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 34 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

The goal is quick reconciliation and forgiveness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The whole process aims at peace. Anger left too long turns into hatred, and the Gospel harmony joins rebuke with forgiveness when the brother repents.

7 “That is, be quickly reconciled, lest your anger continue so long that it turns into settled hatred and produces sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “Take heed within yourselves: if your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 27 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 5, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages never discuss telling family members or an elder before speaking to the person, so they neither permit nor name that case.
- Origen shows that early readers asked whether the steps apply the same way to very grave sins.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 15 early Christian passages and 195 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–15, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 16–140, in Bible order), then 70 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *15 passages from 10 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 **Quote 1, page 2** “one another, not in anger but in peace… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

2 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 7) I say, he will do the same to all those whom He shall find… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 3*

3 *Epistle to Polycarp* (on point 1) you love the good disciples, you don't deserve any thanks for that; instead, strive with meekness to win over the more troublesome ones. Not every kind of wound can… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 4*

4 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 7) be ye then moderate in regard to this matter, and “do not count such as enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 5*

5 *Diatessaron* 27 **Quote 8, page 4** “he owed. So my Father who is in heaven will do to you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother's wrong conduct from his heart. Take… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Against Marcion* 34 **Quote 6, page 4** "eye," Zechariah 2:8. Such sameness of care comes from one and the same Being. He wants a sinning brother to be rebuked, Luke 17:3. If someone failed in… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Marcion* 22 (1885 English; on point 4) "the mouth of three witnesses, says He, shall every word be established… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 8*

8 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 **Quote 2, page 2** "assigns this only to the one who listened. He no longer applies it to the one who has stumbled two or three times and has been rebuked. But what was… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 9–13*

9 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "the law says: At the mouth of two or three witnesses everything shall be established… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 7, page 4** and free from anger. For he who is angry with his brother without a cause is liable to judgment, Matthew 5:22. But if it happens that through someone's… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 5, page 3** according to the doctrine of our Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) must free it from its offenses and give hope. In this way he must restore it in strength to the Church, bringing it back into the flock. Bring back what… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** it to the Church: but if he neglects to hear the Church, let… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 14*

14 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) "take heed to this, and hold no communion with him, until I meet him in company with some wise and discreet men, and see what the designs are which he… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 15*

15 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) accept correction, beloved, for which no one should feel displeased. The exhortations by which we admonish one another are both good in themselves and highly profitable, for they tend to… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *125 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

16 **Genesis 31:44** Now then, come, let me make a covenant, I and you, and it shall be for a witness between me and you." And he said to him, "Behold, there is no one with us; see, God is witness between me and you." **read ›**

17 **Exodus 22:8** But if the thief is not found, the master of the house shall come before God and swear that he has truly done no wrong in any part of his neighbor's deposit, (Septuagint Exodus 22:7 (Exodus 22:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

18 **Exodus 24:14** And they said to the elders, "Stay quietly here until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; if anyone has a case to be judged, let him go to them." **read ›**

19 **Leviticus 5:1** If a person sins, and hears the voice of an oath, and he is a witness, having either seen or known of it, if he does not report it, he shall bear the sin. **read ›**

20 **Leviticus 19:17** You shall not hate your brother in your mind. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and you shall not bear sin because of him. **read ›**

21 **Leviticus 26:15** but disobey them, and if your soul loathes my judgments, so that you do not do all my commandments, so as to break my covenant, **read ›**

22 **Numbers 5:7** shall confess the sin that he has committed, and shall repay what he owes for the wrong: he shall repay the principal and add its fifth part to it, and shall repay it to the one against whom he trespassed. **read ›**

23 **Numbers 12:5** So the three came out to the tabernacle of witness; and the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the door of the tabernacle of witness; and Aaron and Miriam were called, and they both came forward. **read ›**

24 **Numbers 27:19** Set him before Eleazar the priest, and give him a charge before all the congregation, and give a charge concerning him before them. **read ›**

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25 **Numbers 30:6** But if she does become a man's wife, and her vows are on her according to the utterance of her lips, with which she has bound her soul, (Septuagint Numbers 30:7 (Numbers 30:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

26 **Numbers 30:10** If her vow is in her husband's house, or the obligation on her soul with an oath, (Septuagint Numbers 30:11 (Numbers 30:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

27 **Numbers 35:30** As for anyone who strikes down a person, you shall put the killer to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness shall not testify against a person so that he dies. **read ›**

28 **Deuteronomy 15:3** From a foreigner you may demand back whatever he has of yours, but to your brother you shall make a release of your debt. **read ›**

29 **Deuteronomy 17:6** On the word of two witnesses or of three witnesses he shall die; the one who is to die shall not die on the word of one witness. **read ›**

30 **Deuteronomy 17:7** The hand of the witnesses shall be upon him first to put him to death, and afterward the hand of the people. So you shall remove the evil person from among yourselves. **read ›**

31 **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not stand to testify against a man for any unrighteousness, or for any offense, or for any sin that he commits. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses every word shall stand. **read ›**

32 **Deuteronomy 19:16** And if an unjust witness rises up against a man, accusing him of ungodliness, **read ›**

33 **Deuteronomy 19:17** then the two men who have the dispute shall stand before the Lord, and before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. **read ›**

34 **Deuteronomy 19:18** The judges shall inquire diligently; and behold, if the witness is an unjust witness who has testified unjustly, and has risen up against his brother, **read ›**

35 **Deuteronomy 21:19** then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of the place, **read ›**

36 **Deuteronomy 22:1** When you see your brother's calf or his sheep straying on the road, you shall not ignore them; you shall surely turn them back to your brother and give them back to him. **read ›**

37 **Deuteronomy 22:3** So you shall do with his donkey, and so you shall do with his garment, and so you shall do with anything your brother loses. Whatever he has lost and you find, you must not ignore. **read ›**

38 **Deuteronomy 22:4** You shall not see your brother's donkey or his calf fallen on the road and ignore them; you shall surely help him lift them up. **read ›**

39 **Deuteronomy 22:18** Then the elders of that city shall take that man and discipline him, **read ›**

40 **Deuteronomy 25:2** then if the ungodly man deserves lashes, you shall lay him down before the judges, and they shall whip him before them according to his ungodliness. **read ›**

41 **Deuteronomy 25:3** They shall whip him with forty lashes by number; they shall not add more. For if you add more lashes than these, your brother will be disgraced before you. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 25:8** Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. And if he stands and says, "I do not wish to take her," **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 31:28** Gather to me the heads of your tribes, your elders, your judges, and your officers, so that I may speak all these words in their ears; and I call heaven and earth to witness against them. **read ›**

44 **1 Kings 20:10** The son of Ader sent to him, saying, "So may God do to me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria is enough for the foxes, for all the people, my foot soldiers." (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 21:10 (1 Kings 20:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **2 Kings 23:1** So they brought the king word. And the king sent and gathered to himself all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. **read ›**

46 **2 Chronicles 19:10** Whatever case comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between statute and commandment, ordinances and judgments, you shall instruct them, and they shall not sin against the Lord, and anger shall not come upon you and upon your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you shall not sin. **read ›**

47 **Ezra 9:4** Then everyone who followed the word of the God of Israel gathered to me because of the faithlessness of the exiles; and I sat still in silence until the evening sacrifice. **read ›**

48 **Nehemiah 7:26** The sons of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three. The sons of Netophah, fifty-six. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 17:26 (Nehemiah 7:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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49 **Nehemiah 10:8** Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah; these were the priests. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 20:9 (Nehemiah 10:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **Psalms 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

51 **Proverbs 5:17** Let them be yours alone, and let no stranger share them with you. **read ›**

52 **Proverbs 9:12** Son, if you become wise for yourself, you will also be wise for your neighbors; but if you turn out evil, you alone will draw up evils. He who leans on falsehoods shepherds the winds, and the same man will chase birds in flight; for he has left the ways of his own vineyard, and has gone astray concerning the axles of his own farming; and he goes through a waterless wilderness, and a land laid out in thirsty places, and he gathers barrenness with his hands.” **read ›**

53 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

54 **Proverbs 14:28** In a numerous nation is the glory of a king, but in the failing of people is the ruin of a ruler. **read ›**

55 **Proverbs 25:9** Whenever your friend insults you, draw back; do not despise, **read ›**

56 **Proverbs 27:5** Open rebukes are better than hidden friendship. **read ›**

57 **Proverbs 28:23** He who rebukes a man’s ways will have more favor than he who flatters with the tongue. **read ›**

58 **Isaiah 2:11** For the eyes of the Lord are high, but man is low; and the height of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

60 **Jeremiah 26:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

61 **Ezekiel 15:6** Therefore say: Thus says the Lord: As the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire to be consumed, so I have given up those who dwell in Jerusalem. **read ›**

62 **Ezekiel 34:16** The lost I will seek, and the straying I will bring back, and the broken I will bind up, and the failing I will strengthen, and the strong I will guard; and I will feed them with judgment. **read ›**

63 **Daniel 5:17** And Daniel said before the king, “Let your gifts be your own, and give the reward of your house to another; but I will read the writing and make known to you its interpretation, **read ›**

64 **Daniel 9:7** To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, and to us shame of face, as at this day—to the men of Judah, and to those who dwell in Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those near and those far off in every land where you have scattered them, for their faithlessness with which they dealt faithlessly. **read ›**

65 **Hosea 4:12** They inquired by omens, and by their rods they gave answer to them; they have gone astray in a spirit of prostitution and have prostituted themselves, turning away from their God. **read ›**

66 **Amos 3:2** You only have I known out of all the tribes of the earth; therefore I will take vengeance on you for all your sins. **read ›**

67 **Habakkuk 2:16** You also, drink your fill of dishonor instead of glory; be shaken, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord has come round upon you, and dishonor has gathered upon your glory. **read ›**

68 **1 Esdras 8:59** Keep watch and guard them until you deliver them to the chiefs of the priests and the Levites and to the leaders of the families of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of our God.” **read ›**

69 **1 Esdras 9:4** and that whoever did not come within two or three days, according to the judgment of the ruling elders, should have his cattle given over to the temple, and he himself should be cut off from the multitude of the captivity. **read ›**

70 **Tobit 13:3** Give thanks to him, you children of Israel, before the nations; for he has scattered us among them. **read ›**

71 **Judith 10:16** And when you stand before him, do not be afraid in your heart, but report according to your words, and he will treat you well.” **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:10** For these you tested, correcting them as a father; but those you examined, condemning them as a stern king. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:2** Therefore you correct little by little those who fall away, and warn them by reminding them of the things in which they sin, that being freed from wickedness they may believe in you, O Lord. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:26** disturbance of the good, forgetfulness of favors, defilement of souls, confusion of sex, disorder in marriage, adultery, and shameless conduct. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 6:2** Do not exalt yourself in the counsel of your soul, lest your soul be torn apart like a bull. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:8** Do not bind a sin twice, for even in one you will not go unpunished. **read ›**

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77 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:12** Do not set him beside you, lest he overturn you and stand in your place; do not seat him at your right hand, lest he seek your seat, and at the last you recognize my words, and be stung by my sayings. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:7** Never repeat a word, and you will lose nothing at all. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:13** Question a friend; perhaps he did not do it; and if he did anything, so that he will not do it again. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:14** Question your friend; perhaps he did not say it; and if he has said it, so that he will not repeat it. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:15** Question a friend, for slander often happens; and do not believe every word. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:17** Question your neighbor before you threaten him, and give place to the law of the Most High. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:1** There is a rebuke that is not fitting, and there is one who keeps silent, and he is of sound judgment. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:2** How much better it is to rebuke than to be angry, **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:3** and he who confesses will be kept from loss. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:6** He who hates correction is in the footsteps of the sinner, but he who fears the Lord will turn back in his heart. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:9** And a sinful man will trouble friends, and he casts slander among those who are at peace. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:9** and say to you, “Your way is good,” and then stand opposite to see what will happen to you. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:10** Do not take counsel with one who eyes you with suspicion, and hide your counsel from those who envy you. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:13** And establish the counsel of your heart, for no one is more faithful to you than it; **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:18** of a trespass before a judge and a ruler, of lawlessness before a congregation and a people, of unrighteousness before a partner and a friend, and of theft before the place where you live; **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:22** of meddling with his maidservant— and do not approach her bed— before friends, of insulting words— and after giving, do not throw it in their face; **read ›**

95 **Susanna 1:34** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **Susanna 1:50** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **Susanna 1:52** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **Susanna 1:61** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

100 **1 Maccabees 14:28** in Saramel, in the great congregation of the priests and the people and the rulers of the nation and the elders of the country, this was made known to us: **read ›**

101 **1 Maccabees 14:45** Whoever acts contrary to these things or sets aside any of them shall be guilty.” **read ›**

102 **3 Maccabees 3:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **3 Maccabees 6:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 2:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 4:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 6:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **1 Enoch 8:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **1 Enoch 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **1 Enoch 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **1 Enoch 89:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **1 Enoch 95:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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113 **Matthew 5:23** “If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, **read ›**

114 **Matthew 5:24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **read ›**

115 **Matthew 5:25** Come to terms with your adversary quickly while you are with him on the way, lest your adversary hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **read ›**

116 **Matthew 16:19** And I shall give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” **read ›**

117 **Matthew 18:15** “If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. **read ›**

118 **Matthew 18:16** But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may stand. **read ›**

119 **Matthew 18:17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **read ›**

120 **Matthew 18:18** Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. **read ›**

121 **Matthew 18:35** So my heavenly Father will also do to you, if you do not each forgive your brother from your hearts for his misdeeds.” **read ›**

122 **Luke 17:3** Be careful. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. **read ›**

123 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.” **read ›**

124 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” **read ›**

125 **Acts 14:23** They appointed elders for them in every church and, after prayer with fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. **read ›**

126 **Acts 20:17** From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and summoned the elders of the church. **read ›**

127 **Romans 7:2** For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. **read ›**

128 **1 Corinthians 5:5** that such a one be delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. **read ›**

129 **1 Corinthians 7:15** But if the unbeliever separates, let him separate. The brother or sister is not enslaved in such cases; but God has called us in peace. **read ›**

130 **1 Corinthians 14:29** Let two or three of the prophets speak, and let the others discern. **read ›**

131 **2 Corinthians 13:1** This is the third time I am coming to you. At the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. **read ›**

132 **Galatians 6:1** Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself so that you also are not tempted. **read ›**

133 **2 Thessalonians 3:14** If any man does not obey our word in this letter, note that man and have no company with him, to the end that he may be ashamed. **read ›**

134 **2 Thessalonians 3:15** Do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. **read ›**

135 **1 Timothy 5:1** Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers; **read ›**

136 **1 Timothy 5:12** having condemnation, because they have abandoned their former faithfulness. **read ›**

137 **1 Timothy 5:19** Do not receive an accusation against an elder except at the word of two or three witnesses. **read ›**

138 **Hebrews 10:28** A man who disregards Moses’ law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. **read ›**

139 **1 Peter 5:1** I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed: **read ›**

140 **Revelation 2:14** But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *70 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Psalms 118:22

Isaiah 50:10

Ezekiel 18:20

Daniel 7:22

Amos 6:1

Habakkuk 3:2

Matthew 5:22 · 5:45 · 6:14 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 9:2 · 9:12 · 10:32 · 18:12 · 18:22 · 20:25 · 22:38 · 25:19 · 26:3 · 26:63

Mark 5:34

Luke 4:27 · 5:20 · 9:28 · 9:33 · 9:35 · 10:16 · 12:57 · 15:4 · 15:7 · 16:16 · 17:1 · 17:4 · 17:11 · 17:14 · 17:15 · 17:17 · 17:19 · 17:20 · 17:21 · 17:26 · 17:32 · 18:29 · 19:10 · 22:67 · 23:34

John 4:12 · 4:22 · 5:16 · 7:24 · 10:11 · 18:22

1 Corinthians 2:14 · 4:5 · 5:11 · 6:2 · 10:4 · 12:26

2 Corinthians 12:1

Ephesians 4:26 · 5:5

Philippians 1:5

1 Thessalonians 5:22

1 Timothy 3:4

Titus 1:7 · 3:10

Hebrews 1:5 · 12:6

1 John 5:16

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early church keep the order of Matthew 18 when correcting a brother (Matthew 18:15–17)?” on May 26, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY