

Maintaining Relationships
Matthew 18:15-20



Mike Vrabel



Morgan Moses



“Just to see them work together as one, and nobody’s bigger than the other, it allows us to see that that’s how our room is.



“We’ve got older guys,
we’ve got younger guys.
We all keep each other
accountable.”



“Nobody’s bigger than the other, whether you’re a first-round draft pick or the last pick in the draft.



“We all have the same standards. When you have coaches in your room that share that same value, it trickles down.”

Morgan Moses

“Alright, this is something I can fine tune and be better at.”

Morgan Moses



Brenden Schooler



“It’s holding each other accountable. Coaches to players, players to coaches. Everybody’s held accountable. Everybody’s got the same goal.



“So, there shouldn’t be any division, there shouldn’t be ‘it’s us vs. them.’” on the team.

Brenden Schooler

“If you want to win, you do the small things.
We’re grown men. Pick up after yourself.”

Antonio Gibson

Sermon on Relationships - Matthew 18

1. The basis of relationships - childlike humility (1-9)

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2. The value of relationships - individual significance (10-14)

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3. The upkeep of relationships - progressive communication (15-20)
4. The healing of relationships - continual forgiveness (21-35)

1. The **priority** of maintaining relationships

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“If your brother sins against you, go . . .” (15a)

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go.

“First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24

Reasons **not** to go -

- It's a **preference**.

- It's a preference.
- It's **coverable**.

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“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8

“Love is patient and kind.”

1 Corinthians 13:4

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

- It's a preference.
- It's coverable.
- It's a **crime**.

Reasons to go -

- It's a **command**.

- It's a command.
- It's a **way to love**.

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

Proverbs 27:5-6

“Nothing can be more cruel than the
tenderness that consigns another to his sin.

“Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. It is a ministry of mercy, an ultimate offer of genuine fellowship.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- It's a command.
- It's a way to love.
- It's **life-saving**.

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

“let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20

1. The priority of maintaining relationships
2. The **process** of maintaining relationships

Step #1 - **Go alone.**

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“... go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” (15b)

Step #2 - **Go with 1 or 2.**

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“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” (16)

Step #3 - **Go to the church.**

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“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (17)

Observations about the process:

- The process is **relational** not **mechanical**.

Biblical examples:

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- divisiveness

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

“For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”

Romans 16:17-18

Biblical examples:

- divisiveness
- unwillingness to work

“For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.”

2 Thessalonians 3:11

Biblical examples:

- divisiveness
- unwillingness to work
- immorality - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

* The point is not the **outrageousness** of the sin, but the **unwillingness** to move toward **repentance**.

- The process is relational not mechanical.
- The process is **slow** not **fast**.

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14

- The process is relational not mechanical.
- The process is slow not fast.
- The process is **gradual** not **abrupt**.

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- The process is slow not fast.
- The process is gradual not abrupt.
- The process is **hopeful** not **fateful**.

“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

Matthew 18:17

“For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

“When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

“you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 5:3-5

1. The priority of maintaining relationships
2. The process of maintaining relationships
3. The **presence** of maintaining relationships

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Matthew 18:18-20

“Such a promise ought to put a holy fear in us all. It reminds us that our little local church is nevertheless Christ’s church.

“Moreover, it assures us . . . elders that when we make a judicial decision according to Scripture, in faith, and for God’s glory, we are, in effect, applying Christ’s judgment to the unrepentant person.

“Jesus’s word of promise is a word of encouragement to do the hard thing.”

Alfred Poirier

“That is the first church I’ve known that really practices what they believe.”

Professor

“We all keep each other accountable.”

Morgan Moses