

The Principle to Follow when Offended

Text: Matthew 18:15-17

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Elkin, NC

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I. THE PURPOSE OF THE PRINCIPLE

1. Purity
2. Peace (*Ephesians 4:1-3*)
3. Protection

II. THE PROCESS OF USING THE PRINCIPLE

1. Step One: The person who has been offended should speak to the offender in private and tell the offender about the offense. Forgiveness and restoration are required if the offender accepts responsibility for the offense.
2. Step Two: If the offender refuses to listen and reconcile, the offended person must take one or two witnesses with him for a second attempt (*Deut. 19:15*)
3. Step Three: If the offender refuses to reconcile, a third step is required. In this step, the matter is to be presented to the church.
4. Step Four: If the offender refuses to hear the church, he is to be considered as one who would not be admitted as a church member and be cut off, at least temporarily, from Christian fellowship. This is to bring the offender to repentance. Once he repents, he will be restored to church fellowship.