

Treasure Hunt

- What is the relation between “offending” someone and “trespassing against” someone?
- What is the origin of the requirements for two or three witnesses, and of bringing a hard dispute to the church?
- Does the church exist in the Old Testament? Explain your answer.
- Structurally, what do the four promises in 18a, 18b, 19, and 20 have in common?
- What do “binding” and “loosing” mean?
- What is the meaning of the verb form used twice in v. 18?

Relations with Other Disciples

18:1-35 Relations with other disciples

1-4 Question and Answer

Q: 1 Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

A: The Lord divides the question

- 2-3 answers, "Who is in the kingdom?"
- 4 answers, "Who is greatest?"

5-14 Do not give offense

5-9 The Principle

10-14 The Parable: The Wayward Sheep

15-35 Dealing with the sin of others

15-20 The Principle

21-35 The Parable: The Two Debtors

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom

- all things that **offend**,
- and them which **do iniquity**;

“Trespass [sin] against” ~ “Offend”

1Co 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a **stumblingblock** to them that are weak. ... 12 But when ye **sin** so **against** the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat **make** my brother **to offend**, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I **make** my brother **to offend**.

Witnesses ... the Church ...

Deu 17:6 At the mouth of **two witnesses, or three witnesses**, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; *but* at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Deu 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of **two witnesses**, or at the mouth of **three witnesses**, shall the matter be established.

Deu 17:8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, *being* matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; 9 And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:

“The Church” η εκκλησια

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mat 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.

	Usual translation	How entered?	When started?
OT	Congregation (Strong 6951, not 5712)	Physical birth	Exodus (1 st reference Ex 12:6)
NT	Church	Spiritual birth	Pentecost

The Church in the NT

~ “Body of Christ” (no OT parallel)

Eph 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be the head over all things* to the **church**, 23 Which is his **body**,

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the **body**, the **church**:

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his **body's** sake, which is the **church**:

Spiritual birth

Mat 18:3 Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... 5 ... Except a man be born of water and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1Co 12:13 For **by one Spirit** are we all **baptized into one body**, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Later References to Discipline

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and **offences** contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

2Th 3:14 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.

Repetitive Structure of vv. 18-20

18 Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth	and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth	19 if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask,	20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
shall be bound in heaven:	shall be loosed in heaven.	it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.	there am I in the midst of them.

Binding and Loosing (again)

Mat 16:19 whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Loose: permit conduct:

Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break [loose] one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven:

Bind: restrict conduct:

Mat 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Verbs: future perfects

Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth **shall have been bound** in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth **shall have been loosed** in heaven.