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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - GOD'S PRESENCE IN RESTORATION

JUNE 19TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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A symphonic band is comprised of musicians playing many types of instruments. There is the woodwind section with clarinets and saxophones. A brass section features trumpets and trombones. Joining them are stringed instruments—violin and cello. Each produces a unique sound. But when the musicians play together, guided by their conductor, they produce harmonious and beautiful music.

Matthew 18:15–20 stresses the importance of believers living together in beautiful harmony, but there is a powerful force that can make this work—the presence of our Lord Himself! “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (v. 20).

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

MATTHEW 18:20

Many have associated this verse with people gathering for prayer. And while prayer in groups is certainly a good thing, the central focus of this passage is about the process of restoring erring believers (v. 15). Jesus clearly wants His disciples to know that if we as believers go about the tough task of restoring others in the name of Jesus (v. 20) within the church, He will be right there in their midst helping to bring that to pass.

The goal here is reconciliation, not condemnation. We are called to resolve conflicts with grace and love, striving to maintain unity among believers. God is in the business of restoration, that is

why Jesus promises His very presence to assist believers in that difficult process. As we reflect on this passage, let's remember the words of Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" Let us strive for creating space for our Lord's presence to move among us and restore those who are straying away. As we gather in His name, we can be confident that our Lord is guiding and blessing us with His divine presence.

Go Deeper

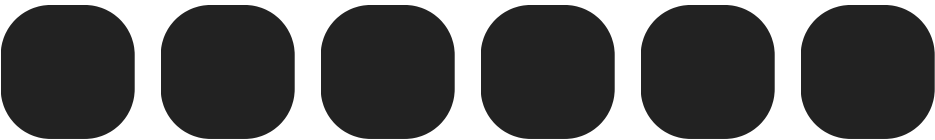
What guidelines do we find in Matthew 18 for biblical confrontation among believers? How can we make sure that God is present in these difficult conversations?

Pray with Us: Lord, Your promise to be with us in a special way when we gather together prompts us to strive for unity, reconciliation, grace, and love in our churches. Restore those who have strayed! Bring them back, we pray.

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