



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
5301 MAIN STREET TRUMBULL, CT 06611
www.sonsofsaintjoseph.org

SOSJ –3– SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY Admonishing the Sinner Saturday, August 19, 2023

Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell the Church.

If he refuses to listen even to the Church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, 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, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Questions

1. What are the first things to be considered when needing to correct someone who has sinned against God? What are times when we knew we deserved correction, but fought it?
2. Why is it so critical that charity and prudence govern any exchange in which one is correcting another, be it a peer or a child? How can we explain we truly love someone when they are not happy with our correction?
3. What are the dangers of not correcting someone who has committed evil? What do you do if the person needing correction is hypersensitive, or unwilling to admit their faults? That a hostile response is likely?
4. How does this relate to conscience? What are the many reasons admonishing the sinner is critical to Catholic conscience?