



## Sermon Notes: Where Two or Three Are Gathered

### Introduction:

#### 1. The normalcy of discipline.

#### 2. The pattern of discipline.

- a. Always start with private correction. (v. 15)
- b. Then take one or two other witnesses. (v. 16)
- c. Then tell it to the church. (v. 17)
- d. Finally, treat as a nonbeliever in need of Christ. (v. 17)
- e. Note that at any point, repentance halts the process.

#### 3. The goal of discipline.

- a. To lead the sinner to a place of repentance and restoration.
- b. To protect and purify the church.

#### 4. The authority of discipline.

- When churches and church leaders practice this pattern in obedience to Christ, they have both his authority and his presence.



## Gospel Applications: Where Two or Three Are Gathered

1. When/where/how have you heard *Matthew 18:20* used before?
2. Forgetting the sermon you just heard on this for a moment, how have you understood/applied this verse in the past? [If you hadn't heard it before, how do you think you would've understood/applied it on your own?]
3. What about the context most helped you to see what verse 20 was actually saying? How is this more gracious than you probably realized before?
4. What words first come to mind when you hear about "church discipline"? What feelings and emotions do you associate with church discipline?
5. What particular sins do you tend to associate with church discipline? Are there common sins in the collective Church that tend to be treated differently? If so, what are they, and why do you think that is?
6. What are some reasons why the collective Church fails, or even refuses, to practice the process of discipline Jesus outlines here?
7. In the sermon it was said that discipline done correctly is almost always private. Why is that? When have you seen this done well?
8. Why is the process Jesus describes here an absolutely essential practice of healthy relationships? How often do you invite correction? Who is allowed to correct you like that?
9. If the collective Church practiced the process Jesus outlines here, what are some positive outcomes you might see? How might the Church look and act different?
10. Why do you think Jesus makes a special point about giving his presence and authority to those who carry out this discipline process?
11. What's one thing you'll seek to change in response to this message?