

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

Fight Like a Christian Matthew 18:15-20

INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW

- How does the background on the Gospel of Matthew impact how you read/interpret this text?

THREE STEP PROCESS

- When you were a teenager, what was the most important thing you learned in your conflicts with your parents?
- List all the ways division seems to be overcoming our lives at home, at work, at church.
- Can reconciliation be found in our world of division?
- How does this passage reconcile with Matthew 7:3-5?
- List the three steps of the process.

STEP ONE: (one on one)

- Why is it important to start the process in private – one on one?
- When/where was the letter written?
- What two facts caused Paul to write this letter?

STEP TWO: (1-2 witnesses)

- What is the value of bringing 1-2 witnesses to address the situation?
- Would it be better if they actually witness the sin or not? Why?

STEP THREE: (church)

- What is the difference between seeing sin as individualistic matter versus as an issue for the community?
- Why does Jesus speak negatively of the Gentiles and tax collectors?

AUTHORITY OF CHURCH:

- What authority is given to the church?
- Why does Jesus give this authority to the church?

JESUS' PROMISED PRESENCE

- Does the interpretation from the Bible Background surprise you? Why?
- How does it differ from the usual interpretation of this verse?

MY LIFE

- How does this story speak to me?
- How does this story speak to us – as a congregation?
- How can I respond to the story today?
- What would you like to have the class pray for you in terms of the discussion today?