

**Sermon Notes**

2-22-15 Ken Carlton

**Providence Community Church**

**Title: HOW TO PRESS CHARGES**

**Main Text:** Matthew 18:15-20

**Sermon Description:** The gospel of Matthew presents us with discourse #4 in Chapter 18 and Christ's theme is clearly 'the church'. We could, perhaps, further outline Mat 18 into 4 subdivisions under the heading: "The Church of Jesus Christ is..." 1. Lowly – of spirit (verses 1-4) 2. Loving – and sacrificially so, to the 'least of these' (5-14) 3. Lawful – in her disputes (15-20) & 4. Long suffering – in her forgiveness one to another (21-35). This message aims to expound the lawful nature of conflict resolution Christ prescribes for His body: the church. Mat 18:15-20 documents the institution of the church's responsibility regarding its self-government or discipline. In the apostolic application of these principles, the New Testament further supplies record of implementation, explanation, and examples of church government. These references include: I Cor 5:1-13, II Cor 2:5-11, II Thess 3:6, 14-15, Titus 1:10-14, 3:9-11, I Tim 5:19-21, Gal 2:11-14. It may not readily occur to us these days that a Biblical role of the church is to provide a judicial standard of discernment and act when necessary as an official court in its own jurisdiction, but this is modern oversight is certainly not on account of information lacking in the New Testament.

**Heading: 4 Meaningful Elements of Jesus' Teaching on Conflict resolution...**

**1. FAMILY AND THE JUDGEMENT OF CHARITY** (15)

a. Nature of the parties

b. Nature of the wrong

---

---

---

**2. PROCESS AND JURISPRUDENCE** (16-17)

a. Progressive approach

b. Witnesses (II Cor 13:1, II Tim 5:19)

c. O.T. Standards (Dt 19:15-21)

---

---

---

**3. SANCTIONS AND AUTHORITY** (17-20)

a. Gentile/ tax collector & excommunication

b. Binding and loosing (16:19)

c. Authority and Christ

---

---

---

**4. BOOKENDS AND COMPASSIONATE CONTEXT** (10-13, 21-22)

a. Discipline & restoration (Gal 6:1, II Cor 2:5-11)

b. Tireless grace (21-22)

c. Illustration/application

---

---

---

**Close:** In the context of our frayed culture, let us pray for the church to salt and light this depraved world with the example of our just arbitration of offenses. If the judiciary of this nation continues to implode, it just may be that the pagans, once again, seek out the institution entrusted and commissioned to rightly divide the preeminent law book of all history. That book is the Bible – the inspired Word of the Judge of the living and the dead.

**FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Theme: Church as family	Theme: Conflict resolution	Theme: Witnesses and justice	Theme: Punishment & authority	Theme: Restore the strays	Theme: Forgiveness
Verses: Mt 18:1-4, 15-16	Verses: Mt 18:15-17	Verses: Deut 19:15-21	Verses: Mt 18: 17-20	Verses: Mt 18:10-14	Verses: Mt 18:21-22