



- How are we to react to gossipers? [cf. 273, 278]

- What about “venting”?

### 3) Slanderers [I. 267]

#### 4) Rebuking evil

- ‘Me too’ world
- How does evil not go unpunished? [I. 274]

### 5) Public & Private Sins | Public & Private Rebuke

- How do we distinguish and apply the above distinction?
- Matthew 18:15-20

## Closing Discussion: Matthew 7:1-6 | 13:24-30, 36-43 | 18:15-20

### 1) There is a tension between three sections of Matthew: 7:1-6; 13:24-30, 36-43; 18:15-20.

- 7:1-6 (Do not judge)
  - There is no prescription on how to confront a brother or sister’s faults.
  - Actually, it prevents and curbs our universal tendency to judge fellow disciples because all too often, this sort of judging damages both parties involved.
- 13:24-30, 36-43 (Parable of the weeds)
  - This parable addresses the church’s struggle in a fallen world.
  - There is always a temptation to “fix” the situation.
  - He essentially says, “No, do not do that. There will be no resolution until the Last Day.”
  - Trying to purge unbelievers and hypocrites will cause too much damage and uproot the wheat.
- 18:15-20 (Gaining a brother)

### 2) Since all three of these passages are Jesus’ word and Scripture, how do we hold all three together?

- 7:1-6 – Your brother is precious to you. He is holy, a pearl. Care for him. Do not cast him out.
- 13:24-30, 36-43 – The wheat is too valuable. Do not uproot and cast out your fellow disciples.
  - Let the angels handle the purging of the field.
- 18:15-20 – Speaks only to caring for a needy, wandering, sinning brother or sister
- Any other view misunderstands Jesus and prevents us from holding the passages together.
- As Christians, we pray that we may live humbly in the communion of the reign of heaven.

### 3) Since Christians in congregations love each other, they are to look out for each other.

### 4) 18:15-20 does not apply to every situation of conflict between Christians.

- Often, 1 Peter 4:8 does the job.

*“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”*