

SERMON NOTES

15th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18, Year A * September 10, 2023

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Ezekiel 33:7-11 * Psalm 119:33-40 * Romans 13:8-14 *

Matthew 18:15-20

Guidelines as Guardrails

R_____ help us have better R_____.

[All God's guidelines can be] summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor.

Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:9-10

If you see a brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give them life 1 John 5:16

The LORD said to Ezekiel, "I have made you a watchman for your people; hear what I say and warn them for me. If you do not warn them, they will die for their sins, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. If you do warn them, and they do not repent, they will die for their sins, but you will have saved yourself." Ezekiel 33:7-9

Jesus said, "If a brother or sister sins against you, go point out the fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."

"But if they won't listen, take one of two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"

"If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or tax collector." Matthew 18:15-17

Next Week's Lessons

Genesis 50:15-21 * Psalm 103 * Romans 14:1-12 * Matthew 18:21-35

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, small group, or a friend

1. Tell about a time you got in trouble either for doing something you didn't know was wrong, OR not doing something you didn't know you were supposed to.
2. Tell about a time someone helped you avoid trouble by letting you know you were making a mistake or doing something wrong, inappropriate, or dangerous.
3. What do you usually do when you see someone you DON'T know making a mistake or doing something wrong, inappropriate, or dangerous? What do you do when you see someone you DO know doing the same thing?
4. Is there anyone in your life right now you need to gently confront about their behavior or choices? If so, without identifying them, what do you need to do?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for people in your life who loved you enough to point out how you could do better.
 - ✦ For that person you talked about in #4 above and for wisdom how to speak to them in love, and when.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.