What Gives You the Right?

Disciple copy — Pleasant Springs Church, Discipleship School

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The full study online: ps-church.com/discipleship/what-gives-you-the-right

The question

"Who are you to tell me?" — What gives one Christian the right to point out another's wrongs?

1 · The commission we actually got

> **Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)** — "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In this sentence there is only _____ command: make _____.

> **Luke 6:40 (ESV)** — "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."
>
> **John 8:31–32 (ESV)** — "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

➤ We are not called to make Christians. We are called to make _____.

2 · The watchman

> **Ezekiel 3:17–19 (ESV)** — “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”
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> **Ezekiel 33:7–9 (ESV)** — “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Ezekiel is made watchman for the house of _____ — God's own people.

➤ **Silence is not _____.**

3 · The law underneath it

> **Leviticus 19:17–18 (ESV)** — “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Reasoning frankly with your neighbor and loving your neighbor are the _____ command.

> **Deuteronomy 22:1–4 (ESV)** — "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother. And if he does not live near you and you do not know who he is, you shall bring it home to your house, and it shall stay with you until your brother seeks it. Then you shall restore it to him. And you shall do the same with his donkey or with his garment, or with any lost thing of your brother's, which he loses and you find; you may not ignore it. You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. You shall help him to lift them up again."
>
> **Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)** — "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."

➤ **Love is something you _____.**

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4 · Jesus sets the fences

> **Matthew 7:1–5 (ESV)** — "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Take the log out _____, and then you will see _____.

> **Matthew 7:15–20 (ESV)** — “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

We may see _____. We may not read _____.

> **Matthew 18:15–17 (ESV)** — “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

The goal is not to win the argument. It is to _____ your brother.

> **Matthew 23:1–4 (ESV)** — “Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.”

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5 · The apostles put it to work

> **Galatians 6:1–2 (ESV)** — “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

The goal is to _____. The manner is _____. The danger is _____.

> **1 Corinthians 5:12–13 (ESV)** — “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”
>
> **Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)** — “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”
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> **James 5:19–20 (ESV)** — “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

6 · Love is a verb

> **1 John 3:16–18 (ESV)** — “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”
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> **Proverbs 27:5–6 (ESV)** — “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”
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> **Hebrews 12:5–11 (ESV)** — “And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

➤ Correction is not proof that I am rejected. It is proof that I _____.

Five questions before I speak

1. **Is the log out of my own eye?** *(Matthew 7:5)*
2. **Is this fruit I can see, or a heart I am guessing at?** *(Matthew 7:16)*
3. **Is this person inside the church?** *(1 Corinthians 5:12)*
4. **Am I going TO him, or talking ABOUT him?** *(Matthew 18:15)*
5. **Is my aim to gain my brother, or to win?** *(Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1)*

The one I find hardest to pass: _____

So what gives me the right?

It is not a _____. It is an _____.

> **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)** — "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The authority to correct sits in _____, not in me.

> **John 13:34–35 (ESV)** — "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

For the week

1. Is there someone I have been talking **about** instead of **to**?
2. Is there a log in my own eye I need to deal with first?
3. Who has been a faithful friend to me — and have I ever thanked them?

The Scriptures — Author and Audience

- **Ezekiel 3:17–19; 33:7–9** — *Ezekiel, a priest taken to Babylon in 597 BC.* Judah's exiles by the Chebar canal. He is made watchman "for the house of Israel" — a commission to God's own people, not to the nations around them.
- **Leviticus 19:17–18** — *Moses, at Sinai.* Israel, newly redeemed from Egypt. Reproving your neighbour and loving him as yourself are given in the same breath.
- **Deuteronomy 19:15; 22:1–4** — *Moses, on the plains of Moab.* The second generation, about to enter the land. Covenant law for life together.
- **Proverbs 27:5–6** — *The wisdom tradition gathered under Solomon.* Young people in Israel being trained to live wisely.
- **Matthew 7:1–5, 15–20** — *Matthew, the tax collector turned apostle, recording Jesus.* The Sermon on the Mount, spoken to His disciples with the crowds listening in.
- **Matthew 18:15–17** — *Matthew, recording Jesus.* The Twelve, taught how to treat a brother who sins — "your brother," someone inside the community.
- **Matthew 23:1–4** — *Matthew, recording Jesus.* The crowds and His disciples, warned about leaders who load others and lift nothing.
- **Matthew 28:18–20** — *Matthew, recording the risen Jesus.* The Eleven, on a mountain in Galilee. The commission the whole church inherits.

- **Luke 6:40** — *Luke, physician and companion of Paul.* Theophilus and the Gentile churches, learning what a disciple is.
- **John 8:31–32; 13:34–35** — *John, the beloved disciple.* Believers late in the first century; first, Jews who had believed Him, then the disciples at the Last Supper.
- **1 Corinthians 5:12–13** — *Paul.* A divided, permissive church in Corinth. The line between judging inside the church and outside it.
- **Galatians 6:1–2** — *Paul.* Churches in Galatia, pulled toward law-keeping as the mark of who is in.
- **Ephesians 4:15** — *Paul, writing from prison.* The church at Ephesus and the churches around it, taught to grow up together.
- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** — *Paul, in his last letter.* Timothy, his son in the faith, left to lead the church at Ephesus.
- **Hebrews 12:5–11** — *An unnamed teacher of the early church.* Jewish believers under pressure, tempted to go back. Discipline as proof of sonship.
- **James 5:19–20** — *James, the Lord's brother, leader of the Jerusalem church.* "The twelve tribes in the Dispersion" — Jewish believers scattered abroad.
- **1 John 3:16–18** — *John, the beloved disciple, as an old man.* Churches he calls "little children," shaken by people who had left them.

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