

The Matthew 18 question

Matthew 18

- Verse 5. Focus is on sin against children.
- Verse 7 talks about temptation to sin.
- Verse 8 If it causes you to sin, **cut it off** and throw it away.
- Verse 15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.
- Not speaking of crime.
- The very nature of the act requires an organizational response.

SIL International Child Safety and Abuse
Response Office

- Matthew 18 begins with a focus on children.
- Verse 5. Whoever receives one child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.
- Verse 7 talks about temptation to sin:
- Verse 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out.
- Verse 15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. This is clearly speaking of two equals, not expecting a child to confront an adult.
- Nor is it speaking of crime. None of us would interpret this verse to mean if we are robbed, we should employ Matthew 18. If we are assaulted, employ Matthew 18. If an adult is raped, employ Matthew 18. Child abuse is a crime in most cultures. Nowhere does the Bible teach that we should respond to crime by conflict resolution strategies. AIM will refer this to proper civil authorities. Our investigative procedures are designed to make an organizational decision about membership in our organization, and safety within our organization.