

**Series: Rediscovering the Local Church**  
**Membership and the Local Church (Part 2)**  
**Text: Matthew 18:15-20**

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**Main Point:** *When it comes to formal declarations about the “what” and “who” of the gospel, the gathered membership of the local church is the highest authority under Jesus Christ himself.*

**Sermon Outline:**

- I. The Foundation of the Church’s Authority (Matthew 18:15–20)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- II. Two Examples of this Authority in the New Testament (Galatians 1:6–9; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5)
  - A. Guarding “The What” of the Gospel (Galatians 1:6–9)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. Guarding “The Who” of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 5:1–5)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- III. Two Implications of this Authority in the Life of the Local Church