

THEE & YE, OR YOU & YOU?

Matthew 18:15-20

October 28, 2018

Sometimes our previous learning and presuppositions make Bible passages harder to understand.

I. Technical clarifications can facilitate understanding.

- When is the pronoun “you” singular, and when is it plural?
- Two distinct paragraphs on a single theme.
Matthew 18:15-17: All uses of “you” are singular.
Matthew 18:18-20: All uses of “you” are plural.
- Some Bible passages teach about church discipline, but this isn’t one of them.
Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 1:10-11

II. A fresh look can make Jesus’ teaching easier to understand.

- Jesus is addressing a situation where one Christian sins against one other Christian.
Acts 15:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:5-6

- How should we treat “heathens and tax collectors?”
Matthew 18:17; Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 5:44

- Forgiveness cannot be unilateral.
Ephesians 4:31, 32

III. When 2 or 3 come together and confirm.

- God is with us always, even when we are alone.
- When difficult and unpleasant decisions must be made, the support of wise and godly brethren is approved by God.
Matthew 18:18-20

Even God puts repentance before forgiveness.