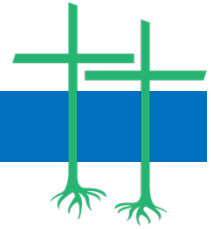


# MINISTRY TOOL #15 – FOR BREAKING TIES



## Binding & Loosing

*Sinful relationships, including sexual sin, can have their unhealthy influence severed through the faith-filled proclamation of a believer.*

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**Matthew 18:18** – Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

### EXPLANATION:

Jesus gave His followers the authority to welcome people into the family of God and also remove them. We see the apostle Paul exercise the authority to loose at least twice:

**1 Corinthians 5:4–5** – So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, <sup>5</sup>hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

**1 Timothy 1:20** – Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Along these same lines—and perhaps as a later countermeasure to the work that was done in 1 Corinthians 5—Paul also demonstrated the welcoming authority of the Lord, bringing a loosed brother back into fellowship.

**2 Corinthians 2:6–11** – The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. <sup>7</sup>Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup>in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

This authority to bind and to loose extends in practicality to any relational ties between a believer (part of the Church) and someone else. In cases where sinful relationships have left a stain of iniquity, still affecting a person later in life, your authority to loose those bonds can be a tremendous blessing.

## GOSPEL SUMMARY:

The aim of the gospel is complete freedom from the world and complete union with Christ. This requires prioritizing the Lord over all current and past relationships (Luke 14:26; Philippians 3:3–11). The church's power to bind and loose can both secure a person's position in the family of God and also help them break free of sinful relationships and their effects.

## HOW TO:

- ❑ Binding and loosing, according to Matthew 18:18–20, is not a matter for one person to do alone. It happens on the agreement of two or three witnesses. For this reason, it can only be practiced effectively with the agreement of one other person, even if it is the one receiving ministry.
- ❑ **Use communal language like “we” and “us.”**
  - “In the name of Jesus, we agree that this relational tie is broken.”
  - “We loose this sinful relationship in the name of Jesus and declare it no longer has authority over your life.”
  - “We consider this relationship dead on the cross with Christ, and we thank You, Lord, that every tie between my friend and this other person is now broken in Jesus' name.”
- ❑ For those who are particularly visual or imaginative in how they interact with the Lord, It's sometimes helpful to have the person give Jesus any piece of the other person's soul that they may have retained, trusting Him to return it to the person and bring freedom.
- ❑ **Where sexual sin may have happened**, it is often helpful to speak words of spiritual cleansing over the person, declaring them free from even the stain of sin. It may also be helpful to encourage the person to apologize to their own body for sinning against it, forgiving themselves (1 Corinthians 6:18). Then bless the healthy reconciliation of body and spirit in the name of Jesus.