

# THE DANGER OF CAUSING OTHERS TO SIN

## Matthew 18:5-9

"Sanctify them  
by the Truth.  
Your Word is  
Truth"  
John 17:17

### I. Introduction

A. The danger of causing or influencing others to sin, especially Christians, whether directly or indirectly.

B. In Matthew 18 a most-interesting thing is going on.

### II. The principle of the meaning of our relationship with other Christians. 5

A. What "one little child like this" is Jesus talking about?

B. What does it mean to receive someone in Christ's name?

C. Mark and Luke bring further clarity to the principle Jesus is teaching. Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:49-50

D. Jesus extends this point a little farther in saying "For he who is not against us is on our side," (Mark 9:40) followed by a promise of reward to those that help His followers (Mark 9:41).

III. The danger of ignoring this principle. 6-7

A. Causing one of these little ones who believe in Jesus to sin is a serious offense.

B. Jesus expands and pronounces “woe” upon those that are such stumbling blocks.

C. We need to be fully aware that Christians can also become stumbling blocks or inducements to sin to others.

D. Though you could be the cause of stumbling to your brother or sister, that in no way can be an excuse for the person who sins.

IV. How we might prevent ourselves from violating this principle and becoming a stumbling block. 8-9

A. What is our guiding light in helping us to not become stumbling blocks for others?

B. Anything that morally or spiritually traps you; causes you to fall into sin or to stay in sin, should be eliminated quickly and totally.

V. Conclusion