

# Matthew 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

## Analysis

This text illustrates key Reformed principles: *sola Scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*. The passage demonstrates how God's Word speaks authoritatively to human need, revealing both our depravity and God's merciful provision through Christ.

## Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?
3. How should you share this truth with others?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐὰν δὲ παρακούσῃ αὐτῶν εἰπὲ τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳς ἐὰν  
if And he neglect to hear them tell G3588 it unto the church if  
G1437 G1161 G3878 G846 G2036 G1577 G1437

δὲ καὶ τῇς ἐκκλησίᾳς παρακούσῃ ἔστω σοι  
And and G3588 it unto the church he neglect to hear let him be unto thee  
G1161 G2532 G1577 G3878 G2077 G4671

ῶσπερ ὁ ἔθνικὸς καὶ ὁ τελώνης  
as G3588 an heathen man and G3588 a publican  
G5618 G1482 G2532 G5057

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Thessalonians 3:6** (Parallel theme): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

**Ezekiel 11:12** (Parallel theme): And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you.