

## Stumbling Blocks

Matthew 18:1-6

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## Stumbling Blocks

- *skandalon* “occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends” (Strong)
- “any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall” (Thayer)
- A trap, snare, hindrance

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## Stumbling Blocks

- Sin is individual (Ezekiel 18:20), but in a real sense I am “*my brother’s keeper.*”
- God wants EVERY SINNER to be saved. Luke 17:2; cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; cf. John 3:16
- Stumbling comes but, WOE to the one through whom they come. Luke 17:1

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## How May I Be A Stumbling Block?

### **False teaching.**

- To Eve. Genesis 3
- In Israel. Isaiah 30:10; Jeremiah 5:30-31; 23:27, 32
- In the church. Acts 20:28-30; 2 Peter 2; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; James 3:1

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## How May I Be A Stumbling Block?

### **Neglect Influence.**

- You are salt, light. Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:12-16
- Words and character counts. Colossians 4:6; Titus 2:4-8; 1 Peter 2:11-12
- May not involve things that are wrong in themselves. 1 Corinthians 8; 10; Romans 14

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## How May I Be A Stumbling Block?

### **Negligent husband or wife.**

- cf. Matthew 5:28-32
- Physical satisfaction. 1 Corinthians 7:1-7; Proverbs 5:15-19
- Emotional satisfaction. Proverbs 31; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33

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## How May I Be A Stumbling Block?

### **Neglect Children.** Psalms 127:3-5

- Teach the children. Deuteronomy 6:4ff; Colossians 3:21
  - Answer their questions. *"Where is the lamb?"* Genesis 22:7
  - *"What mean ye by this service?"* Exodus 12:26; cf. 14
  - *"What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the ordinances ..."* Deuteronomy 6:20
  - *"What meaneth these stones?"* Joshua 4:6, 22,

## How May I Be A Stumbling Block?

- **Neglect the church.** Revelation 3:15-16
  - Proverbs 29:18, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* KJV
  - Did not prepare for the generation to come. cf. Judges 2:10

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## To Avoid Being A Stumbling Block ... 1 Corinthians 10:32-33

- **Mind the things of God.** Matthew 16:21-23
  - Christian's mind must be on things above. Colossians 3:1-2, 12-17
  - Heart (mind) of humility, considerate of others. Philippians 2:5
  - Mind to suffer rather than sin. 1 Peter 4:1-2
  - Live according to the Spirit ... submit to the law of God. Romans 8:5-8 (Peter in Matthew 16:22)

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## To Avoid Being A Stumbling Block ... 1 Corinthians 10:32-33

- **Remove every hindrance.** Matthew 18:8-9
  - Do whatever is necessary not to sin and not to cause another person to sin!
  - Sinless act that encourages one to violate his conscience. 1 Corinthians 8:11-13
  - Sinful act or attitude. Matthew 5:27-30 (Romans 13:14)

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## To Avoid Being A Stumbling Block ... 1 Corinthians 10:32-33

- Have no fellowship with error in teaching. 2 John 9-11
- Have no fellowship with error in practice. Ephesians 4:17; 5:8ff; don't go along. 1 Peter 4:4; 1 Corinthians 5
- Do not grow weary. Galatians 6:1ff

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## Removing The Stumbling Blocks

- Shows you love the lost. Romans 10:1
- Shows you love the weak in conscience. 1 Corinthians 8:13
- Shows you love your own soul. cf. Matthew 18:6

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