

Matthew 18:15 specifies that the containment should go further than simply keeping a matter within the borders of a team of ministers. If the offense involved two members of the group and if those two can justly deal with the matter before the Lord, there is no need to take it further.

### Cooling

Containment facilitates cooling as is clear from passages such as Prov. 26:22. Anger is likely to increase as well as other emotional reactions if the matter is spread. The heat of anger deepens the division that has resulted from the original conflict. The wisdom of Proverbs throws light on this fact. The following references show the dangers of uncontrolled temper:

Proverbs 29:22, "An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered man must pay the penalty;" Prov. 19:19, "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty if you rescue him, you will have to do it again."

In contrast the advantages of a cool head are mentioned:

Prov. 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger."

Prov. 15:28 "The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil."

Prov. 16:32 "Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city."

Prov. 17:28 "Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue."