

HOW TO LIVE IN A GOD HONORING WAY IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT

Matthew 18:15-20

- **15** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

Matthew 18:15-20 cont'd

- **18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed[f] in heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

- **1) Procedure for dealing for conflict. If we don't do it this way, it's wrong. This is the path of God to deal with conflict.**
- Clear up misconceptions (opinions vs. sin)

Three Levels of addressing when someone sins against you.

- **Level 1: Go to the person directly**
- **15** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, **between you and him alone.**” (ESV)*
- - 1st assumption: give them the benefit of the doubt.
- - 2nd assumption: feel the weight of conviction

- **Level 2: Include some people of wisdom and discernment**
- **16** *“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”*
- (wisdom and discernment, getting unstuck, transference)

- **Level 3: Bring it to the leadership of the church**
- *17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*
- - Always restorative, not punitive
- - Love them, win them back
- - The problem in the exchange of Grace

- **II) You ALWAYS have to forgive. No exceptions.**
- **Matthew 18:21-35**
- *21 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (NASB)*
- (Rabbi - 3, Peter - 7, Jesus - 490)
- - Quit Keeping Score, unlimited forgiveness
- - Parable - \$500 million & \$100
- - Forgiveness and Reconciliation: unilateral vs bilateral

- **Conclusion:**
- Jesus is driving the importance of these conversations for the purpose of unified reconciled relationships.
- **Misaligned relationships with one another ALWAYS get us out of alignment with God.**
- - Not about attacking
- - Invitation to restore relationships