

SERMON NOTES

Confronting Conflict: How to Confront Well

BIG IDEA: Go to win your brother, not to win the argument.

This week Jesus gives us the practical shape of what doing right actually looks like when it comes to handling conflict. Every step, all the way to the hardest one, stays aimed at the same target; not removing your brother, **but restoring him**. So, if there is any other motivation present inside of you... DO NOT GO YET!!! Go back to the mirror of the Word of God...

1. Go to Them Alone [Matt 18:15]

The responsibility to pursue reconciliation falls on the one who was wronged, not just the one who did the wronging.

- Trespass = The most general and common word in the New Testament for _____.
- Four fleshly responses to guard against:
 - (1) A _____ - _____ response.
 - (2) A _____ response
 - (3) A _____ response
 - (4) A _____ response
- You go alone because you're not trying to build a _____. You're trying to gain a brother or sister.

"You can win the argument and lose your brother"

2. Ask Others to Help You Plead with Him [Matt 18:16; Rom 12:18]

Jesus doesn't give you an exit ramp after step one; love doesn't go once and call it done.

- The witnesses aren't there to gang up on them and strengthen your case. They bring _____ for both of you.
- The one or two assist in prayer and persuasion, but they can be witnesses to the church, confirming the _____ of the conversation should your brother/sister still refuse to repent.

3. Ask the Church to Plead with Him [Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 5]

The church's role here is not to punish. It's to add its voice to the appeal.

- This is the whole church doing corporately what have already tried to do privately; _____ out, one more time, to win him back.
- If even this fails: Let him be unto thee as an _____ and a _____.
- Better to remove the _____ part than let the _____ spread.



Matthew 18:15-17

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 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.

Romans 12:18

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Matthew 5:23-24

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."