

Re:peat Dealing with Conflict.

We show our relationship with God through our relationship with _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Matthew 18:15-20 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony 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, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

The verses that precede these speak of _____ and _____ one another.

This passage speaks of the Church _____ one another .

The Goal ... _____ living, _____ relationships.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Basic Steps: You. Go. Privately.
To the other person.
To discuss the matter.
For the purpose of reconciliation

What God gives us as we address conflict:

- 1) God gives His _____
- 2) God gives His _____
- 3) God gives His _____

Some cautions:

1) **Don't invoke this process for _____ thing.**
Proverbs 26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.
⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

2) **Be really, really careful and sure if you are considering confronting and correcting a leader**
Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- 3) **Watch _____ and non-verbals:**
- 4) **Begin, proceed, and continue to love.**

"I just need to check in with you. Is everything ok between us?"



1. What is the most ridiculous thing you can remember that caused conflict in your life? What funny things did you and your siblings or childhood friends argue about?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What does "reconciliation" mean? Why should we be reconciled to others?
3. What does it mean to be Christ's ambassadors? How should that impact our behaviour?
4. Read Matthew 18:15-20. This passage gives 4-step instructions on how to deal with conflict. What is the purpose of addressing a problem with someone else? (v 15) Why bother?
5. Why take another person with you the second time? (v 16) What does this say about seeking wise counsel from trusted friends?
6. What does it mean to treat a person as a tax collector or a pagan? (v 17) Why would we do this? What is accomplished? How do we actually do it? How should Christ followers treat non-Christians?
7. In verse 18 we see that God gives us authority. What could be bound/loosed? What should believers be bound to/loosed from? How can this verse be misunderstood?
8. In verse 19 we see that God gives us support. What must we do? Is this a magic formula to get what we want?
9. In verse 20 we see that God gives us His presence. Does this mean that God is not with us when we are on our own? How is it a comfort to know that we are not alone?
10. Why bother going through all four of the steps in order in this process? Why not just skip to #4?
11. ****For personal consideration:** Is there an issue in your life that needs addressing? Prayerfully consider your own heart and intentions before taking action. Do you need to address this conflict or just let it go? If you follow the Matthew 18 principle to conflict resolution, do so with reconciliation in mind and see it through with love!



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