

RELATIONSHIPS - PART 2

THE SOURCE OF RELATIONAL DISCORD

- Whenever two people enter into a close relationship, disagreement is inevitable at some point
- Puritan John Trapp says that it is as unlikely that you could strike two pieces of flint together and not have sparks as it is that you could put two sinners together and not have conflicts
- This is part of living in a fallen world...it should be expected...the closer you are to someone, the more potential there is for conflict
- As believers who have been reconciled to God by Christ, we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is vastly different from the way the world deals with it
- This begins by understanding what conflict is and how to resolve it to the glory of Christ
- Conflict results from a difference in opinion that frustrates someone's goals or desires
- It is caused by many different factors:
 1. Standing up for what is honoring to God despite opposition from others and the world
Daniel 3, 6
 2. Misunderstandings
Acts 15:22-29
 3. Differences in values, goals, priorities, expectations, interests, etc.
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 4. Competition over limited resources
Genesis 13:1-12
 5. Sinful attitudes and desires that lead to sinful words and actions
James 4:1-3 ~ What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- James identifies the source of our conflicts as pleasures/lusts/desires which reside in our heart
- Selfish, fleshly desires which are deeply rooted in our hearts provide the seedbed for conflict
- "Our typical response to conflict is to point the finger at our opponent. We feel justified because the person often has done something annoying, frustrating, or even downright sinful! But James doesn't let us off the

hook that easily. He makes it clear that even if someone has sinned against us, the reason we fight is because there is something wrong going on inside us!”¹

- Most of our conflicts erupt because we want our way and make choices to get it
- While we often think our selfish desires are right, they usually fool us
- It is our root desires lead to sinful choices
- A tree with good roots with produce good fruit...a tree with bad roots with produce bad fruit

Luke 6:43-45 ~ For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. 45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

- Just like trees, we have a root system in our hearts that produce different kinds of fruit
- This root system is made up of desires that reside in our hearts
- “If our hearts are filled with selfish desires, the fruit will usually be sinful words and actions that result in conflict and broken relationships. On the other hand, if our hearts are filled with love for God and a desire to please him, then the fruit will be words and actions that promote peace and strengthen relationships. Some of the desires in our hearts are clearly wrong, like greed or selfishness, and will produce bad fruit. Other desires may seem to be good, like wanting to get good grades, but even a good desire can produce bad fruit if you desire something too much. The desire can become a sinful demand. When you demand your own way, you are likely to offend others. This is how conflict often begins.”²

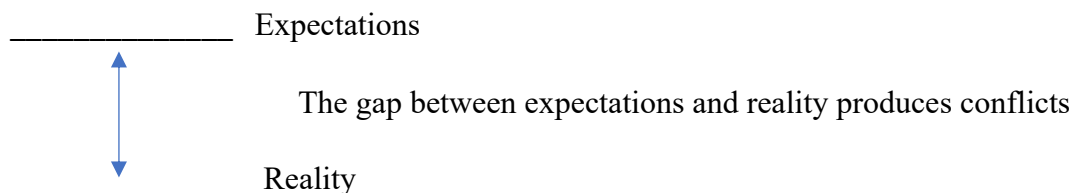
Jeremiah 17:9 ~ The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

Matthew 12:34 ~ You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

Mark 7:20 ~ And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.”

Galatians 5:19-21 ~ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- “Discord and division are inevitable when people focus on their agendas to the exclusion of others in the church...disregard of fellow believers, no matter how unintentional, is a mark of loveless, sinful indifference that produces jealousy, contention, strife, and the other enemies of spiritual unity.”³



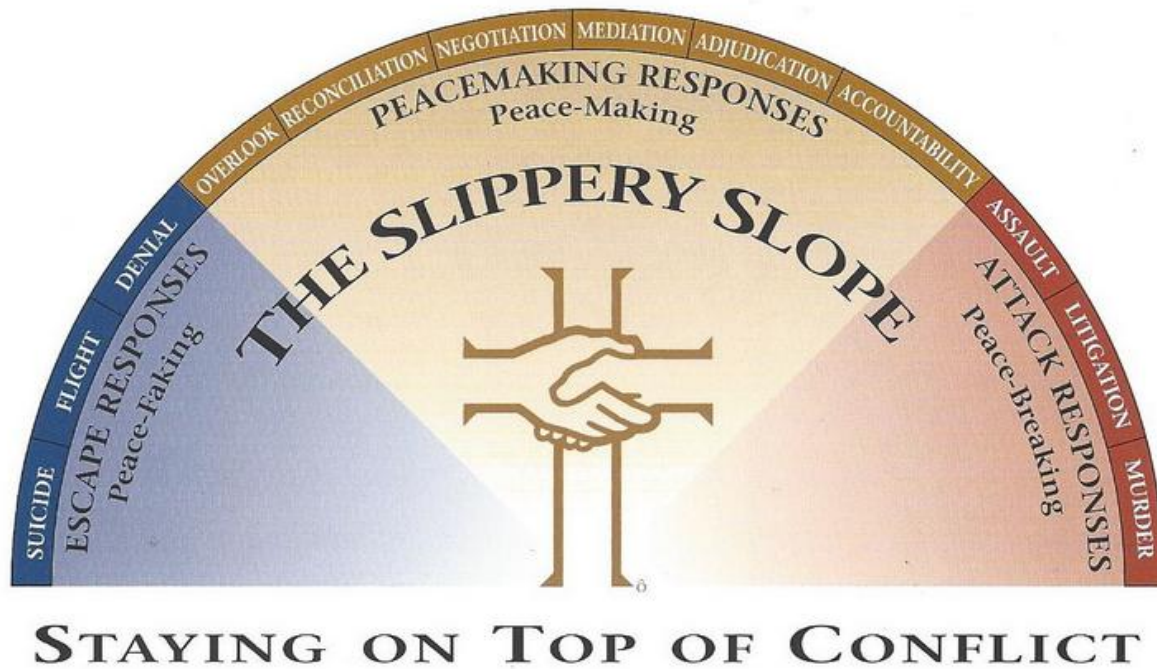
- When we don't get our way we tend to have problems in our relationships with others
- Thus, conflict typically starts in the heart

¹ Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp, *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*, 75.

² Corlette Sande, *The Young Peacemaker: Teaching Students to Respond to Conflict God's Way*, 26.

³ John MacArthur, Matthew commentary

- This leads to a variety of responses:



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- There is a spectrum of response to conflict with escape responses on the left, attack responses on the right, and peacemaking responses in the center:⁵

Escape responses – responses used to get away from conflict instead of trying to resolve it...typically expressed in people who have a strong desire for loving comfort and pleasure...they often prolong conflict and can result in bitterness and unforgiveness:

- Denial – pretend that a conflict doesn't exist or refuse to do what should be done to resolve it
- Flight – run away from the person with whom you are having a conflict
- Suicide – taking your own life rather than dealing with the situation

Attack Responses – responses used to put pressure on others to get our own way...typically expressed in people who have a strong desire for control...usually damage relationships and often result in anger and hatred:

- Assault – using harsh or cruel words when conflict arises or resorting to physical force or intimidation to compel a person to give in to your demands
- Litigation – take the matter before civil authorities rather than exhausting attempts at working it out
- Murder – killing the person who opposes you

Conciliation Responses – a variety of responses aimed at finding a just and agreeable solution to conflict

Personal peacemaking responses – only involve the two parties

- Overlook – one person deliberately and unilaterally chooses to forgive a wrong and walk away from a conflict (Prov 19:11; 1 Peter 4:8). This is not the same as “denial” but forgiveness is the key here. This causes the person who overlooks another's sins to continue having a growing, healthy relationship with them.

⁴ <https://goshen.church/message/conflict-under-the-rug>

⁵ Adapted from *Biblical Peacemaking: Responding to Conflicts Biblically*, IFCA International.

- Reconciliation – personal offenses are resolved through confession or confrontation, leading to forgiveness and reconciliation (Matt 5:23-24; 18:15). “A conflict is resolved by going directly to the other person to talk it out together. This can include confessing your own wrongs and confronting the other person’s wrongs in a kind and respectful way. This response should be used if you cannot overlook what the other person did, and the problem is hurting your relationship.”⁶
- Negotiation – issues are resolved through a bargaining process in which the parties seek to reach a mutually agreeable settlement of their differences through an exchange of promises (Phil 2:3-4)

Assisted peacemaking responses – involves others in the process of conflict resolution

- Meditation – one or two other people meet with the parties to improve communication and facilitate a resolution (Matt 18:16). Mediators suggest solutions for reconciliation but both parties need to decide what to do.
- Adjudication – when the parties cannot come to a solution, they explain the matter to one or more arbitrators who are empowered to render a binding decision on the matter. The arbitrator decides on a solution.
- Accountability – when a believer refuses to do what is right and just, the church formally intervenes in a process of church discipline to promote repentance and reconciliation (Matt 18:17-20)

THE SANCTIFICATION OF RELATIONAL DISCORD⁷

- Conflict provides opportunities for God to work and accomplish his purposes, making conflict a means of sanctification rather than a burden
- “Conflict with others is one of God’s mysterious, counterintuitive ways of rescuing us from ourselves. God uses it to get where he wants to take us before we die. Because we don’t usually think that trials can be used in such a positive way, this truth catches us by surprise. But it shouldn’t all kinds of suffering, including conflict with others, can be redemptive because of the grace of God. By redemptive, we mean that God can use conflict (as well as everything else in our lives) to defeat sin in us and make us more like Christ, with a love for him and others that reflects his nature.”⁸
- When conflict arises, we often let our emotions take over and drive our behavior; instead, we should recognize that conflict can be an opportunity for growth

Glorify God

- Conflict provides another situation in which we can bring glory to God which is our ultimate aim as believers

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 ~ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved. 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

- Glorifying God in conflict starts by believing that God can and does work in all kinds of situations for our good and his glory
- He wastes nothing in his sovereign purposes to conform us to his image and to accomplish his good pleasure

⁶ Sande, *The Young Peacemaker*, 26.

⁷ Adapted from *Biblical Peacemaking*, IFCA International.

⁸ Lane and Tripp, *Relationships*, 72.

- It is often in the trials that God does his greatest work

James 1:2-4 ~ Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- We can glorify the Lord in the midst of relational discord by:

- Trusting him – believing that he is not to blame for the conflict, but is a faithful God who keeps his promises

Psalm 37:5-6 ~ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

- Obeying him – not playing the blame game or becoming angry and bitter but embracing God’s instructions about how to relate to others

John 14:15 ~ If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

- Imitating him – following God’s example in how he relates to us

Psalm 103:8-10 ~ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Ephesians 5:1-2 ~ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

- In the midst of the conflict, we must be asking:
 - How can I please and honor the Lord in this situation?
 - How can I be a witness to what Christ has done for me?

Serve Others

- Conflict with others provides an opportunity to serve them, even though this is contrary to the way our flesh naturally responds
- “Conflict doesn’t usually bring out the best in you, does it? When you are having a dispute with someone, it is easy to give in to your sinful heart and become angry, bitter, and mean. Thoughts of retaliation, instead of plans for reconciliation, often fill your mind. Your friends who do not know Jesus will tell you to ‘look out for yourself.’ But Jesus says something different...When you are in conflict, you can serve not only the person who is opposing you but also the people who are watching what you do. As you choose to act in a loving and self-controlled way, you can be a Christ-like example to them and show them how they can stay on top of the slippery slope.”⁹

Luke 6:27-28 ~ But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

- We can serve others whom we are in conflict with by:
 - Loving and doing good toward them

⁹ Sande, The Young Peacemaker, 93.

Romans 12:14, 17-21 ~ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse...17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. 20 “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Helping them change through constructive confrontation

Galatians 6:1 ~ Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Ephesians 5:11-13 ~ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

James 5:19-20 ~ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

- Praying for them

Matthew 5:44-47 ~ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

Grow to be More Like Christ

- God’s overall goal for us is to become like his Son in the way we think, speak, and act

Romans 5:3-4 ~ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

Romans 8:28-29 ~ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

2 Corinthians 3:18 ~ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- Conflict helps us to remember our need for God

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ~ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Conflict helps to uncover sinful attitudes and habits

Psalms 119:67, 71 ~ Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word...71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

- Conflict provides opportunities to put off the old self and put on the new self

Ephesians 4:22-24 ~ that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- The ABC of Christian growth: Adversity Builds Character

THE SOLUTION FOR RELATIONAL DISCORD

- As believers we ought to be those who seek peace and promote relational unity
- This is true in our relationships with unbelievers

Matthew 5:9 ~ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Romans 12:18 ~ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Hebrews 12:14 ~ Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

- This is also true in our relationships with fellow believers

Romans 14:19 ~ So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

2 Corinthians 13:11 ~ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Ephesians 4:3 ~ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:13 ~ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

2 Timothy 2:22 ~ Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

James 3:13-18 ~ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then *peaceable*, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in *peace* by those who make *peace*.

- The true peacemaker doesn't fake relational harmony, appeasing others simply by trying to arrive at "peace-at-any-price"
- Contrary to what most people think, the true peacemaker is not afraid of making waves
- Real peacemakers don't gloss over or hide truth...they don't rationalize or excuse sin
- They are willing to confront issues and address problems
- They are willing to drag sin into the light and expose the source of the conflict
- They want to expose issues of the heart in order to apply Biblical truth to them
- And then, after the problems are solved, they build a bridge between those who were separated by the problems
- A peacemaker is always willing to enter into the situation – which could temporarily result in greater conflict – in order to secure genuine peace

- “The peacemaker is a fighter...he makes trouble to make peace...he wages peace.”¹⁰
- They are not spoiling for a fight...they don’t revel in conflict...but they are honest about the state of relationships around them...they are willing to risk more conflict temporarily in order to make things right in the long term
- In other words, peacemakers fight for peace...they are not just peaceKEEPERS...but peaceMAKERS
- They actively work toward reconciliation and strive to end relational hostilities
- Thus, peacemaking is not an optional activity for those who follow Christ

Overlook the Offense if Possible

- Before rushing off to confront someone, we should remember that there are times when it is appropriate to overlook minor offenses
- We should ask whether it’s really worth fighting over because God does command us to overlook minor offenses

Proverbs 19:11 ~ A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

1 Peter 4:8 ~ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- We should overlook offenses when:
 - The offense is not seriously dishonoring to God
 - Our relationship has not been permanently damaged
 - Others are not being hurt
- If these are not true of the offense, then it is too serious to overlook and needs to be addressed

Get the Log Out of Your Own Eye

- Rather than attacking others or dwelling on their sins, we must first take responsibility for our own contributions to the conflict...confessing our sins and asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict...and seeking to repair any harm we have caused
- We must own whatever personal sin we have brought to the situation
- “Only do this if you have sin to own. Sometimes you will and sometimes you won’t. Most of the time we do bring sin into the situation, so don’t be afraid to admit where you have not loved well. Your confidence in Christ’s righteousness (not your own) is the only thing that will enable you to do this.”¹¹

Matthew 7:5 ~ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

- Although it is easy to see the faults in others, we must first recognize our own faults
- Don’t blindly defend yourself...instead, examine your attitude, words, actions, and motives...the goal should be reconciliation, not winning

Psalms 139:23-24 ~ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

¹⁰ R. Kent Hughes

¹¹ Lane and Tripp, *Relationships*, 82.

- If the Lord reveals sin on your part, confess that to the Lord and to the person you offended

Proverbs 28:13 ~ He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

- Repentance over sin is more than a feeling...it is an action, a choice of the will
- There is a worldly sorrow that does not produce genuine repentance...so we must ensure our repentance is sincere
- Godly sorrow comes when we see sin for what it is: a personal offense against a holy God

Psalm 51:3-4 ~ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

- Genuine repentance will produce a change of heart, a different way of thinking, and changed behavior

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 ~ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

- Marks of genuine repentance from v. 11:
 - Earnestness – a desire to clear ourselves of sin
 - Vindication – a desire to restore the trust and confidence of others in you
 - Indignation – anger over sin and the shame it brings
 - Fear – of offending God and falling into sin
 - Longing – to restore broken relationships
 - Zeal – for God and his holiness
 - Avenging of wrong – wants to see justice done and sin avenged no matter the cost
- The seven “A’s” of confession
 - Address everyone involved
 - Avoid “if,” “but,” and “maybe” statements
 - Admit specific sins (sinful attitudes, words, actions)
 - Apologize for the way your sin hurt the other person
 - Accept the consequences for your sin
 - Ask for forgiveness
 - Alter your behavior by putting off the sin and putting on the corresponding virtue

Be Willing to Confront Personally

- When you know that someone has something against you, you must go to them

Matthew 5:21-24 ~ You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

- In going to someone who has something against you, you may:

- Be able to clarify a misunderstanding
- Learn that you were actually wrong
- Help to deliver the other person from the danger of unforgiveness
- When someone's sins are too serious to overlook, you must go to them and confront them lovingly
- Scripture commands us to first talk directly and discretely to the person with whom we're in conflict

Matthew 18:15 ~ If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Galatians 6:1 ~ Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- The purpose of confrontation is always to “win” them and see them “restored” to usefulness to God
- Elements of an effective confrontation
 - Pray for wisdom, grace, and guidance for all involved
 - Consider writing down what you plan to say to stay calm and on track
 - Choose carefully the right time and place and meet in-person if possible (Matt 18:15)
 - Think about how you would want to be confronted and speak only to build others up (Eph 4:29)
 - Listen carefully (James 1:19)
 - Assume the best of them until the facts prove otherwise (1 Cor 13:7)
 - Be objective (facts vs. personal opinions or conclusions)
 - Use the Bible carefully (don't preach)
 - Ask for feedback
 - Make a plan for next steps
- **It is important to remember that your job is to speak the truth in love as clearly and persuasively as possible...and it is God's job to change people**

Take Others with You

- If talking directly doesn't resolve the conflict, then the other steps in Matt 18 should be followed

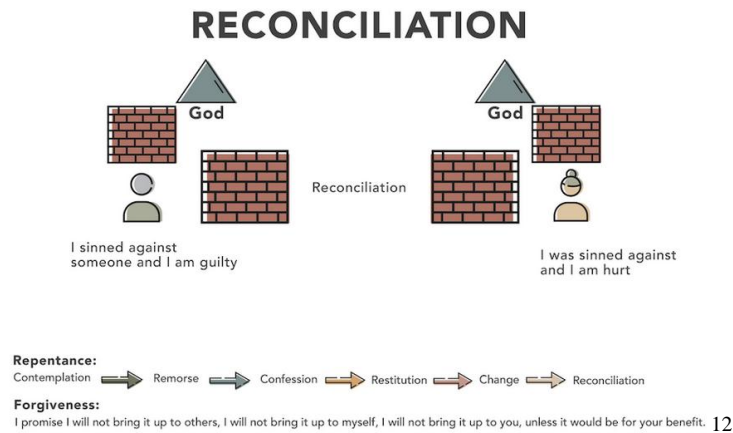
Matthew 18:15-20 ~ If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 If he refuses to listen to 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. 18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.

- Steps:
 - Step 1 – talk to them individually in private
 - Step 2 – take one or two others with you
 - Step 3 – tell it to the church
 - Step 4 – treat the unrepentant believer as a non-believer
- What if your opponent is not a Christian?

Galatians 6:10 ~ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Go and Be Reconciled

- Ask for and grant forgiveness...and work towards reconciliation



DEALING WITH UNREASONABLE PEOPLE

- What if the person who has offended you refuses to see it and work toward forgiveness and reconciliation?
- Remember that we have divine weapons

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ~ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

- Control your tongue

Romans 12:14 ~ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

- Get wisdom from a multitude of counselors

Proverbs 11:14 ~ Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

- Keep doing what is right

Romans 12:21 ~ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Recognize your limits

Romans 12:18-19 ~ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

- Never underestimate the power of deliberate, focused love to win your opponent over

Romans 12:20 ~ BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

¹² <https://www.biblicalcounselingresources.org/work/crystals-cczet-w6d5y>