

Sermon Title: Reconciliation
Sermon Series: Biblical Forgiveness
Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20
Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



2 Corinthians 5:17–21 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

You are:

Forgiven

Loved

Accepted into the family

Reconciliation - to restore & reestablish favorable & friendly relations with another.

Reasons to confront conflict instead of letting it go:

- Neglect leads to failure.
- To obey Christ.

Proverbs 3:11–12 ESV

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:5–11 ESV

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Because God _____ the church through forgiveness and reconciliation, you must _____ biblically.

Matthew 18:15–20 ESV

“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. 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. 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. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

What does it look like to confront biblically?

1. _____ & _____

Matthew 18:15 ESV

“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.

And, it’s sin, specifically that should be addressed.

Just because someone disagrees with you or has a different perspective doesn’t mean it’s sin.

Step #1 is NOT:

To wait.

To sit and sulk.

The cold shoulder.

Indifference.

Payback.

Gossip.

Step #1 is a private conversation.

It’s going to the person with the hope to “gain” your brother or sister in Christ.

2. **Establish** _____

Matthew 18:16 ESV

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.

Deuteronomy 19:15 ESV

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

Three reasons to bring a witness:

- Protect Against False Accusation
- Be Another Voice of Reproof
- Be a Public Witness

3. Church _____

Matthew 18:17 ESV

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.

2 John 10 ESV

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,

Titus 3:10 ESV

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,

1 Corinthians 5:11 ESV

But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Three types of sin that are biblical grounds for church discipline:

- Heresy** - expressed or implied denial of the essential Christian doctrines
- Immorality** - conduct inconsistent with biblical standards
- Contempt** - deliberate disrespect to church leadership

Matthew 18:18–20 ESV

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

The ultimate aim of this teaching of Jesus is that you and your fellow brothers & sisters in Christ would experience the freeing joy of true forgiveness that leads to reconciled & restored fellowship with Christ and one another.

Is there something getting in the way?

Surrender it to the Lord and live forgiven.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever been involved in an awkward confrontation? How did you feel about it?
2. Read [Proverbs 3:11-12](#). Why should we confront conflict, rather than just avoiding it?
3. Read [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#). What does this text tell you about God's reconciliation to you?
4. Read [Matthew 18:15-20](#).
 - What is the first action this passage instructs a believer to take when he or she has been sinned against by another believer?
 - What are some ways we may try to avoid doing this, whether it be subconsciously or consciously?
 - What could it look like to confront someone about his or her sin in *gentle grace with holy boldness*?
5. According to Matthew 18:15-20, if the offender does not recognize or repent of his or her sin, what is the second step the offended person should take? Why is this step important?
6. Why might the rebuke from the church toward someone who has committed sin be necessary? Why could this actually be the most loving and God-glorifying approach to take?
7. Do you need to allow God to reconcile you to Himself? How is God asking you to trust Him to reconcile a relationship in your life?

