



“Christlike in Conflict”

Matthew 18:15–20

The Authority of the King

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.”

1.) Followers of Jesus have a different standard.

Won: Greek—*kerdainō*: to make a profit, gain by investment, or win over.

1 Corinthians 9:19 – “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.”

James 5:19–20 – “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever bring back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

Philippians 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves.”

Romans 12:18 – “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Matthew 18:16 – “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.”

2.) Followers of Jesus start with a different motivation.

Luke 23:34a – “And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’”

Galatians 6:1 – “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

Deuteronomy 19:15 – “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense he has committed. Only on the evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be established.”

Matthew 18:17 – “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.”

3.) Followers of Jesus use a different definition of love.

Ephesians 4:15 – “Rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14 – “If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.”

2 Thessalonians 3:15 – “Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”

Hebrews 10:24 – “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Stir up: Greek—*paroxysmos*: irritation or exasperation; provoke.

Matthew 18:18 – “Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19 – “I will give you the keys of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

4.) Followers of Jesus submit to a different judge.

Matthew 18:19 – “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.”

5.) Followers of Jesus must do things Jesus’ way.

Matthew 18:20 – “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

6.) Followers of Jesus seek unity with each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you find new, helpful, or confusing about today’s message?
2. How do you normally handle a situation when someone sins against you?
 - a. How do you respond when someone tells you that they feel you’ve sinned against them?
3. Why do you think Jesus was so specific in giving these step-by-step directions?
4. Would you find it easy or difficult to follow the steps Jesus gave in Matthew 18? Explain.
5. Have you ever followed the steps in Matthew 18 or seen someone else do so? How did it work out?
6. Is there anyone that God is calling to your mind that you need to follow these steps with?