

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

We Don't Have a Humble Posture

Matthew 18:1-9

People Experience Conflict in One of Three Ways (Sande):

- **Peace-Fakers:** Conflict is a danger to be escaped
- **Peace-Breakers:** Conflict is a problem to be attacked
- **Peace-Makers:** Conflict is an opportunity for peace to be made by solving it in a way that honors God & all others involved.

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

Conflict is an Unavoidable Reality of Our Lives! Over the next four weeks, we will examine the four important pillars that can make our attempts at conflict resolution successful. The first is a **Posture of Humility**.

"If your brother sins against you, go & tell him his fault, between you & 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 & a tax collector."

Matthew 18:15-17

*"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them & said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn & become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives such a child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck & to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off & throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out & throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.'" **Matthew 18:1-9***

Main Idea: Conflict Resolution Requires a Humble Posture

Humility Must Go in 3 Directions:

I. Humility Upward Toward God

*"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them & said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn & become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" **Matthew 18:1-4***

"Humility is a grateful & spontaneous awareness that life is a gift, & it is manifested as an ungrudging & unhypocritical acknowledgment of absolute dependence on God." **Tyndale Bible Dictionary**

*"This humility cannot be a subjective attitude (children rarely act humbly) but an objective state (children do depend almost entirely on the adult world for their protection and provision)...Is our confidence that of a child trusting the goodness of our Father, or is our confidence in ourselves?" **Craig Bloomberg***

"...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **James 4:6b**

II. Humility Outward With People

"Whoever receives such a child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck & to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Matthew 18:5-6

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, & then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:3-5

"The humble person lives for Jesus first & others next – he puts himself last. He is happy to deprive himself of even good things, if it will make others happy."

Warren Wiersbe

III. Humility Downward Concerning Judgment

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off & throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out & throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire." **Matthew 18:7-9**

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself & take up his cross daily & follow me." **Luke 9:23b**

"A lame, maimed, half-blinded saint is, even on earth, better than a sinner with every faculty fully developed." **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **John 13:35**

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." **Philippians 2:3-4**

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Philippians 2:5-8

The only way you can truly humble yourself in the face of personal offenses & experience true conflict resolution is by being in Christ Jesus!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *New American Commentary: Matthew* – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Matt 16-23* – John MacArthur (1988)
- *Exploring the Gospel of Matthew* – John Phillips (2005)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Commentary on Matthew* – C.H. Spurgeon (2010)
- *The Gospel of Matthew* – William Barclay (1976)
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Huges & Laney (2001)
- *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig S. Keener (1993)
- *The Peacemaker* – Ken Sande (1991)

