

## **Why Can't We All Just Get Along?** **We Aren't Pursuing Restoration**

Matthew 18:10-14

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

**Matthew 5:9**

**Conflict is an Unavoidable Reality of Our Lives!** Jesus talks about it...

*"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**

### **Top Four Reasons for Initiating Conflict Resolution:**

- **Administration:** There's conflict between us; how can we manage it?
- **Vindication:** I am right; I know it & you are going to know it, too!
- **Excommunication:** I'm breaking up our friendship, & here's why!
- **Restoration:** Something has come between us, & I want to resolve it, because I love God, & I love you.

### **Main Idea: Conflict Resolution Driven by Love Will Always Pursue Restoration**

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, & one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains & go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."* **Matthew 18:10-14**

- I. Individual Love** *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones..."* **Matthew 18:10a**

*"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low & despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."* **1 Corinthians 1:27-29**

- II. Patient Love** *"...For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."* **Matthew 18:10b**

*"Love is patient..."* **1 Corinthians 13:4a**

- III. Seeking Love** *"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, & one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains & go in search of the one that went astray?"*  
**Matthew 18:12**

*"So he told them this parable: 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, & go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends & his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."* **Luke 15:3-7**

*"So if you are offering your gift at the altar & there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar & go. First be reconciled to your brother, & then come & offer your gift."* **Matthew 5:23-24**

- IV. Rejoicing Love** *"And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray."*  
**Matthew 18:13**

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

- V. Protective Love** *"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."* **Matthew 18:14**

*"...It (love) keeps no record of wrongs."* **1 Corinthians 13:5b (NIV)**

**God's Restoration:** He is completely justified in doing ANYTHING BUT restoring our relationship. However, his love for us is Individual, Patient, Seeking, Rejoicing, Protecting...**and God's word declares...**

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself & gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, & entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."*  
**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

Christ has Restored our Relationship with God for Two Primary Reasons:  
1) To Help Reconcile People to God & 2) To Help Reconcile People to One Another.

### **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)

