



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Room of Unfinished Arguments**
Series: **The Rooms We Don't Talk About**
Text: **Mathew 18:15-20**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **May 31, 2026**

CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE, BUT DESTRUCTION IS OPTIONAL.

WHY THIS DOOR IS CLOSED?

1. _____

2. **YOU WANT TO _____!**

- *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “**Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?**” (Mt 18:1)*
- ***He called a little child and had him stand among them.** (Matt. 18:2)*
- *And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, **whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** (Mt 18:3–4).*

You cannot go to a conflict _____ and come home with a brother or sister. Those two goals are incompatible.

- *“In your anger do not sin”: **Do not let the sun go down** while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph 4:26–27).*

Conflict left alone, unresolved conflict becomes bitterness. Bitterness becomes contempt. And contempt — the conviction that the other person is simply the problem — is the posture most _____ **TO RECONCILIATION.**

- ***What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?** (Jas 4:1).*

THE PATH THROUGH CONFLICT

1. _____ **DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON YOU HAVE CONFLICT WITH.**

*“If your brother sins against you, **go tell him his fault, between you and him alone.**” (Mt 18:15).*

"If he listens to you, you have **won your brother.**" (Mt 18:15).

"A **soft answer turns away wrath**, but a **harsh word stirs up anger.**" (Proverbs 15:1)

- _____ MATTERS
- _____ MATTERS

2. BRING _____

But **if he won't listen**, take **one or two others with you**, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses **every fact may be established.** (Mt 18:16).

- CHOOSE PEOPLE _____ TO BOTH PARTIES
- ESTABLISH THE _____
- PROVIDE A LOVING _____

3. BRING IT TO THE _____

If he doesn't pay attention to them, **tell the church.** (Mt 18:17).

- THIS IS NOT A _____ !
- THIS IS THE WHOLE FAMILY SEEKING _____ !

If he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be **like a Gentile** and **a tax collector** to you. (Mt 18:17).

Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 Now when he heard this, he said, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice**, For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mt 9:11–13).

THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE _____

Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, **restore such a person with a gentle spirit**, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. (Ga 6:1).

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matt. 18:20)

THEN PETER ASKS A FOLLOW UP QUESTION.

21 Then Peter approached him and asked, "Lord, **how many times must I forgive** my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?" (Mt 18:21).