

The Tunnel Of Conflict

Four Roles In Relational Conflict

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Key Scripture:

Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT) If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

1. Peacemaker (Matthew 18:15; Matthew 5:9)

- Conflict has different origins and types.
- Not every conflict needs to be addressed; wisdom helps us know when to overlook an offense (Proverbs 17:14; Proverbs 19:11).
- Peacemakers address sin that harms the individual, the church, or the believer's walk.
- Keys for conflict:
 - Start with yourself (Matthew 7:3-5; Matthew 5:23-24).
 - Show the person their disobedience to God (James 5:19-20).
 - Protect the other person's privacy (Proverbs 16:28).

Discussion Questions:

- What makes a true peacemaker different from someone who just avoids conflict?
- How do you discern when to overlook an offense versus when to address it?
- Why is it important to start with your own heart before confronting someone else?

Follow-Up Prompt:

How might God be calling you to step into the role of a peacemaker this week?

2. Truth Teller (Matthew 18:16; Deuteronomy 19:15)

- Involving others is about humility and accountability, not ganging up or building a case.
- Truth telling must be rooted in humility (Philippians 2:3-4).

Discussion Questions:

- Why does Jesus call us to bring others into conflict resolution, and how does this reflect God's wisdom?
- How can humility reshape the way we speak truth in hard conversations?

Follow-Up Prompt:

Think about a current or past conflict: how would humility have changed the way you approached it?

3. Community Member (Matthew 18:17; Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 6:1)

- The church must be different from the world and stand firm on God's Word.
- Believers are called to guard the community of faith and guard their own hearts.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is protecting unity in the body of Christ so important?
- How do we balance correction with gentleness when someone has fallen into sin?

Follow-Up Prompt:

What's one way you can help guard the unity and health of your church community this week?

4. Restorer (Matthew 18:17; John 16:33; Matthew 9:10-13; Romans 5:8,10)

- How we handle conflict can either point people to Jesus or push them away.
- Jesus came to restore us from conflict with God, demonstrating love even when we were sinners.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus' example with sinners shape the way we respond to people in conflict?
- In what ways does remembering God's restoration of us fuel our efforts to restore others?

Follow-Up Prompt:

How might God be inviting you to take steps of restoration with someone in your life?

Reflection & Prayer

Reflect: Which of the four roles—peacemaker, truth teller, community member, restorer—do you most need to grow in?

Pray: Ask the Lord for wisdom and courage in conflict, that your response would reflect His heart and lead others toward restoration in Christ.