

Conflict 05: Restoration not Revenge Matthew 18:15-17

November 9, 2025

Main Idea: Restoration is the goal when we must confront others, not revenge!

Series: Today we end a series that is about something we all deal with: *conflict*. No one is immune. Shortly after God created, there was conflict between God and the first humans. Adam and Eve had children. There was conflict. From the early pages of Scripture, conflict is recorded between people. Today, we are no different. Since we are going to have to deal with it, it is good to learn how to handle it God's way!

What Have We Learned:

Conflict 01: "Eye for an eye" is about fairness not getting even.

Conflict 02: We should view conflict counterculturally and deny ourselves and bear our crosses.

Conflict 03: Discernment is good. Hypocritical judgement is too far!

Conflict 04: Christ helps us love even when we aren't loved back.

Today:

Sometimes we must engage situations directly and that means conflict. Jesus had to address things that were out of bounds. We will have to do the same sometimes and since we are not perfect, like Him, we need a blueprint. When those times come, we must use the lowest forms of confrontation possible. We should not seek to humiliate people, even when they harm us. If things need to be intensified, the goal will remain to restore people back into harmony with other followers of Christ.

The Motivation:

We have all been rebels at times. We struggle with various sins. We chase things we should not chase. We place ourselves on pedestals. We look to gain the upper hand on the next guy or gal. We lie. We cheat. We think things that are harsh. The list could go on and on. Each time we make the choice to engage one of these things, we offend God. He did not write us off. He chased us. He chased us so far that He gave himself up for us. When someone offends us, shouldn't we be in the business of chasing them instead of writing them off? That is what was done for each of us, after all...when we reflect on Christ's efforts for us, it gets easier to make the same efforts for others!

A good shepherd will leave the herd to go find the one that is wayward. As we encounter others who stray, even when their wandering hurts us, the goal needs to be confronting them so that they can come back home.

If you must confront, ask yourself: is my goal to help their faithwalk or to prove my point, how is my tone, have I prayed and is this how I would want to be approached if the roles were reversed?

Family Night Big Idea: Helping someone who hurt us is hard but worth it!

Read: Matthew 18:15 – When someone hurts us and we treat them with care, we can be restored.

Elementary School: Ask, "When someone apologizes for hurting you, is it easier to be friends again?"

Middle/High School: Ask, "Why does apologizing help a person who hurt someone and the one who was hurt?"

Pray: "Lord, help us learn to care for others even when it is hard. Help us forgive like you forgave us. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, November 12.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

That's Who I Praise.....Brandon Lake

All Creatures of Our God and King.....Reawaken Hymns

Battle Belongs.....Phil Wickham

Deck the Halls

Mark your calendars for kids' Christmas Fun on December 7 from 4:30-6:30.

Christmas Family Gift Giving

We want you to suggest families within your circle of influence who need help with Christmas this year. You can use the Communication Card or notify a staff member. You will be contacted by Paulette to get gift ideas. We need your family information by November 16th so we can post a gift sign-up sheet on November 23rd.

Poinsettia in Memory or Honor of Your Loved One

Order until Nov. 23rd. We will display them on the stage throughout the holiday. Cost is \$20. Please pay at the time you order. Take home after Christmas Eve Service.