

## CONFRONTATION

### “The Matthew 18:15 Process”

Matthew 18<sup>15</sup> *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, **just between the two of you**. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”*<sup>16</sup> *But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’*<sup>17</sup> *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

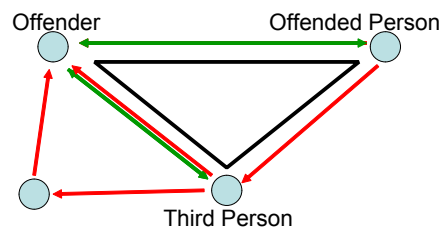
**STEP 1.** *go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.  
If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*

**STEP 2.** *But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’*

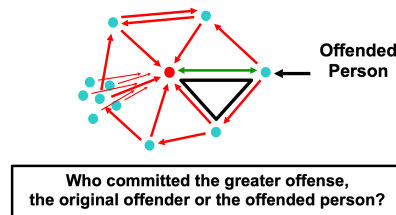
**STEP 3.** *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church*

**STEP 4.** *and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

#### TRIANGULATING



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Proverbs 6:16-19

- <sup>16</sup> There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:
- <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,
- <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- <sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies  
and **a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.**

Here is an amazing thing: Almost without exception the thing that the offender did is not one of the things listed as one of the top seven things that God hates. But the thing that the offended person did is: stirring up dissension among the brothers.

# **“CONFRONTATION GOD’S WAY”**

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS TO THE CHURCH FOR DOING CONFRONTATION IN A BIBLICAL WAY**

### **1. Commit To Owning The Value of Matthew 18:15**

It must be taught on regularly to where it is on our tongues.

### **2. Monitor Ourselves And Others**

Tim 4:16. *“watch your life.....closely”*

\* Modeling the Value

\* Being aware that the human tendency is to avoid conflict.

\* Learn to discern what takes root in your spirit and what does not..

### **3. Redirect Others**

When someone comes to us with a complaint about another brother or sister, what we need to say is: “This feels to me that we are not honoring the Matthew 18:15 process. Have you in fact described in great detail to the person who offended you in this regard?”

### **4. Know How To Approach The Confrontation**

No Letter, No internet, No phone, FACE TO FACE

#### **(1) Pray**

For Understanding

Pray to seek what our part of the conflict is all about.

For Perspective

Prayer reminds us of what is most important in life.

It is not about winning and losing.

For Attitude

Prayer helps our tone.

Helps us establish verbal discipline. Choice of words.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath.”

For Timing

#### **(2) Acknowledge Your Apprehension**

I’m concerned you may not understand me.

I’m concerned you may feel I’m judging you.

I’m concerned you may think I’m overreacting.

#### **(3) Affirm The Person**

How important is it to go the extra steps to affirm the other person?

Affirming negates the condemning spirit.

#### **(4) Presume Your Own Fallibility**

“I’m assuming I’m wrong, that I’ve missed something here.”

**(5) Acknowledge The Matthew 18:15 Principle**

If we can say to someone, "You said something that hurt me or you offended me in some way, and I want you to know this right from the start, **I have not talked to anybody about this,**" nothing does more to preserve the relationship.

**5. Narrow The Issue**

Drop the lesser important matters  
Deal only with the core of what you are concerned about  
Stay away from the issues of motives if possible

**6. Be Solution Oriented**

The goal of Matthew 18:15 is reconciliation.

It is not to spank somebody.

It's not so that someone goes out feeling defeated or caught or embarrassed. It seems if you view Matthew 18:15 with a huge heart of grace, what you are trying to do is understand what went wrong. Maybe why it went wrong and get on the solution side to see if we can relate in new ways that would prevent this thing from ever happening again.

So most of the time as soon as the fault has been identified, let's go in as quickly as possible to why it happened.

Now, let's determine what we can do to make sure this never happens again.

**7. Mirroring Technique**

Most of us don't listen to each other.

When someone says something to you, learn to say back,  
"So what I hear you saying.... Is that correct?"  
"Have I understood you?"

**8. Be Open To Agreeing To Disagree**

Sometimes you either have a philosophical or a leadership kind of difference with someone, maybe a temperament difference.

Sometimes you have to say, well, we are going to live with that.  
We disagree and that's OK.

There is more than one right way to do most things.

Can we disagree agreeably?

If we can't, then we'll be back in the room again and again.

### **9. Be Committed to Follow up**

You may have to be very intentional about meeting often for a while to be sure the relationship is back intact.

### **10. How We Should React When We Are Being Confronted**

Allow people to ventilate, but not spew venom.

No Switching

### **WHAT IF THE OTHER PERSON IS THE OFFENDED PARTY?**

Matthew 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

Often times, the offended party is too prideful to do the right thing. So, we must help them out.

We are not to wait days or weeks thinking we have to put together our “lawyerly” case against the other person.

### **ONE MORE THOUGHT:**

Romans 12:18

<sup>18</sup> *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Hebrews 12:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

### **RECONCILIATION IS A GOD THING**

2 Corinthians 5:18

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

### **MEDITATION:**

The question we each should ask is,  
Are we living out this principle?

Has someone offended you  
and are you willing to go to them?

Have you offended someone else  
and you know you need to go to them?