

Personal Tune-up for 2007

Tuning Up How I Resolve Conflict ~ *March 11, 2007*

Jesus said, "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." Matthew chapter 18 verse 15 (749)

If

- can also be translated "when"
- conflict is inevitable in any relationship
- when you live life in community with others, you will experience conflict
- How to identify a solid relationship? Conflict is acknowledged, dealt with & resolved in a God-honoring way

another believer

- Jesus is giving specific instructions for Christ-followers within the church
- we can make application to the workplace, home & our other relationships in life

sins

- the word used refers to missing God's standard
- Jesus is referring to an actual transgression or violation of God's law
- Jesus is not referring to preferences or likes

sins against you

- Jesus is not asking me to be the moral police for my friends, co-workers or family
- I can encourage my loved ones to do this when they are sinned against, but I cannot go for them!
- God's plan is that each of us develop these relationship skills on our own

go privately

- literally, go alone

go privately & point out the offense

- when I go alone, I am to talk about the specific sin
- NOT all of the stuff that this person has done wrong over the years!
- this is exactly why this process that Jesus describes here needs to be a regular part of my life

What Jesus didn't say...

- that I go to my friends & family and tell them how I was wronged
- if I do this, I sin thru gossip & slander, both of which God condemns
- that I ask others to "pray" for my upcoming confrontation as a way of getting the info out & hurting the other person
- that I slam the other person by asking for prayer on my behalf

that I have to do this every time I'm sinned against

- ***Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs. Proverbs chapter 19 verse 11 (494)***
- If someone is having a bad day & does something out of character, I have the option of overlooking that wrong
- I am wrong to overlook a character flaw that is destroying the person or their relationships
- I am wrong to overlook actions which are illegal or immoral

If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back

- if I go alone and speak to this person & the person repents, the process is over
- no one else should be told about this situation
- it's over
- remember, the goal of God-honoring confrontation is restoration, NOT to embarrass or get even with someone

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. Matthew chapter 18 verse 16 (749)

But if you are unsuccessful

- I need to realize going into this that the offending people don't always listen initially
- that's why Jesus lays out a potential 3-step process here
- Remember, the goal is reconciliation
- I must be committed to and see the value of God's goal in all of this

take one or two others with you & go back again

- ideally, take one or two others who witnessed the sin
- if there were no witnesses, take those who know the person & their tendencies, people who are godly & respected by both parties

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- ideally, take one or two others who witnessed the sin
- if there were no witnesses, take those who know the person & their tendencies, people who are godly & respected by both parties
- if the person listens & repents, the process ends here!

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.

Matthew chapter 18 verse 17 (749)

If the person still refuses to listen

- this is the potential 3rd step in the process
- First, I went alone and confronted the person
- Second, I took one or two others with me and went again

take your case to the church

- this is the time to pull in a pastor, elder, group leader, team leader
- if this is a non-church situation, it's time to pull in a supervisor, boss, etc.
- when you pull in this other person, go to them & tell them everything that has happened so far in the process
- then ask them to help you resolve this

Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

- if the person listens & repents, the process ends here
- if the person doesn't repent, the offending person is to experience consequences for their hardened heart

Next week: *What will be said of me and my life when I am gone?*