

Memory Verse

Romans 12:18

**If possible, so far as it depends on you, live
peaceably with all.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



Growing Through Conflicts and Reconciliation Pt. 2

Various Verses

We all have a responsibility and *it is a spiritual, maturity and Biblical matter.* We defined conflict as a *disagreement, struggle or battle over opposing issues, ideas, principles or beliefs.* We studied 4 types of, and some causes of conflict: *different beliefs, different personalities, different behaviors and different purposes.* We also learned the root of all conflict is **sin**.

While a conflict *you may be in* may not be directly sinful, it is because of sin conflict is in the world, our lives and in churches. We then looked at **2 personalities**: the **tough** person and **timid** person and gave some personality traits for each. While it is *painful*, *conflict can be helpful*, and is **something we will face** sooner or later.

Philippians 2:1-11

- 1.** Our desire should be to *be of the same mind* in the things of Christ, while not necessarily agreeing on everything.
- 2.** *Be humble.*
- 3.** Look to *what is best for the other person first*, while keeping our convictions and considering our position.
- 4.** *Remember Jesus* as our ultimate example!
- 5.** There is a *reward for doing things God's way.*

A. *Matthew 5:21-24* – What if Someone has Something Against You?

In *Matthew 5-7*, Jesus is offering the Kingdom to the Jews, explaining the heart of the 10 Commandments and dealing with misinterpretations of the Old Testament Law. That is what He refers to in *verse 21*. He is *correcting their wrong view* and gets to the heart issue in *verse 22*.

A. *Matthew 5:21-24* – What if Someone has Something Against You?

Then He says, “*Therefore...*” and talks about *bringing a sacrifice to the Temple*, as required under the Mosaic Law. Jesus said, if you come with your offering and remember someone has something against you, *leave your offering, go and make things right!* The word for “*something*” means “*anything.*”

A. *Matthew 5:21-24* – What if Someone has Something Against You?

The Greek word for “*reconciled*” is only used here in the New Testament. It means, “changing enmity for friendship,” or “where people in conflict come together *through meaningful change*.” **First**, go to that person, make it right, **then return to offer your sacrifice.**

A. *Matthew 5:21-24* – What if Someone has Something Against You?

He is dealing with the heart. We can outwardly do everything good, but He wants our hearts, our lives, our thinking, and our character *right in His eyes* and it doesn't mean perfection. We may not be aware if someone has something against us. He said **if you remember** someone has something against you.

B. *Matthew 18:15-17* – What if You have Something Against Someone?

In context, Jesus *warns about being a stumbling block to others; the Lord seeking the lost sheep; discipline and prayer*, and then forgiveness in the rest of the chapter. Jesus is talking with His disciples. In *verse 15*, the text is clear. *If someone sins against you!* This is a **direct sin against you**.

B. *Matthew 18:15-17* – What if You have Something Against Someone?

If you know *talking about a secondary matter* will cause division, then *in love and wisdom*, limit what is said and be aware of those around you. Also, if someone **does not want to discuss a matter**, then *we need to respect that desire not to talk about that topic with that person directly and be careful of a group setting.*

B. *Matthew 18:15-17* – What if You have Something Against Someone?

If someone sins directly against you, and *most include any kind of offense here*, what are you supposed to do? *Go directly to that person or those people and confront them.* Don't talk about them to others. Don't ask someone to pray. Don't complain to your spouse.

B. *Matthew 18:15-17* – What if You have Something Against Someone?

This was Synagogue discipline. These verses have nothing to do with spiritual warfare. *Binding and loosing* was a phrase used for the Pharisees, with regards to the Mosaic Law. The Greek form refers to something already decided in heaven, and then expressed on earth. The matter is decided in heaven, and people rightly decide to do what God has decreed to be right.

B. *Matthew 18:15-17* – What if You have Something Against Someone?

Jesus refers again *to 2 people agreeing, and 2 or 3 gathered.*

The context is a *court setting* where *2 or 3 people are witnesses to a confrontation*, using the Old Testament principle from *Deuteronomy 19:15.*

C. *Galatians 6:1-10* – What is the Purpose of Confrontation?

We may think *confrontation* is to only free ourselves from potential bitterness. *That is the fruit and not the root for doing it.* The point of confrontation is **very different.**

C. *Galatians 6:1-10* – What is the Purpose of Confrontation?

It's not to mock or ridicule someone. It's not to get revenge and it is certainly not to make them drown in guilt with no hope. *The purpose of confrontation is restoration!* We have seen this in **every Biblical text so far!**

C. *Galatians 6:1-10* – What is the Purpose of Confrontation?

In *Galatians 6:1*, the word for “*caught*” refers to a sin that someone is overcome with, or surprised by. The word for “*restore*” refers to “ethically, to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be.” I think this word was used in the medical field, to refer to *setting a broken bone*, or *putting into alignment that which is off*, like a chiropractor.

C. *Galatians 6:1-10* – What is the Purpose of Confrontation?

The goal, purpose and desire of the *one who confronts*, is to **restore** that person **to a right relationship with God and others**. In this text, the one who is mature, or *spiritual* is to do this, remembering he or she *can be caught up in the same sin or problem*. This goes back to humility.

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

What should *our attitude be* if we are confronted?

James 1:19-20 - This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; 20for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

1. Listen

First, *listen to what is said*. This doesn't mean you agree, but it means you give courtesy and honor to the person talking. **Don't interrupt.**

Ask questions for *clarification* if needed when he or she is finished, but *listen to what is said*. Treat the person with respect...

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

If *you sinned against that person or offended him or her*, this conversation should make that clear, and give you an opportunity to make it right. Even if what the person says is 98% wrong, that *2% could mean the difference between continuing the relationship or not*. You can later decide what to do with other topics discussed.

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

2. Don't Defend Yourself

Be *very careful* what is said during these times of tension. We should be *slow to speak, think about what we are saying and how we say it*. One of the *biggest temptations* when we are confronted is to defend ourselves, defend our stance, defend our decisions, and more. This stops the process of reconciliation in its tracks.

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

2. Don't Defend Yourself

There are times when you will need to defend yourself against false accusations, or clear up a misunderstanding. But when someone confronts us, our *emotions kick in* and *kick out our thinking*, and we get angry, louder, and more, which makes the problem worse.

D. *James 1:19-20* – What Should Our Response be if We are Confronted?

3. Beware of Anger

While there is a *place for righteous anger*, we should be *slow to anger*. In these conversations, should not get angry. *Anger* is the **result** of *not liking what is said or done*, and like defending yourself, it will stop the reconciliation process. This doesn't just go with our voice, but can be expressed in our actions.