



Dealing With Conflicts

Matthew 18:15-19

If your brother ---

Jesus taught us to do good to one another, especially to those of the household of faith. - Galatians 6:10

Love one another - Lay down your lives for the brethren. - I John 3:16

Shall trespass ---

This is not just to do you wrong, the Greek is to miss the mark. - Romans 12:5

We are one body when one member hurts the whole body hurts.

Go to him ---

Galatians 6:1 Examine yourself in the spirit of meekness. Have I done anything to cause my brother to stumble?

Matthew 5:23-24 When you bring your gifts to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave there your gifts, go your way, and be reconciled with your brother first.

Tell him his fault ---

What do I say? This is not easy to do in a loving manner. The Lord tells us to always give a good report of our brother. I want to give a good report of you so I wonder if you would explain something to me --- etc.

Be humble, ready to admit your error or your fault if you are at fault. "God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud." James. 4:6

Between you and him alone ---

If we really are going in a spirit of love, then we don't want to hurt or embarrass the offender, but to restore him. First, check out the facts to be sure that you have not misunderstood. Don't ever tell the story to someone else until you have gone to him first. "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another." Proverbs. 25:9

"A whisperer separateth chief friends." Proverbs 16:28

If he shall hear you

Then you have gained or restored a brother. This after all is the only intent with which you should mention an offense in the first place. By telling him what his words meant to us, we will broaden his thinking to see a different point of view, and he will be more precise in his choice of words in the future.

**If he will not hear you**

Then take with you one or two witnesses that every word may be established. It is imperative that the ones going as witnesses also examine themselves before the Lord and be sure that their hearts are pure and their motives are Love and Restoration. They are to be witnesses to the offender first and not primarily witnesses against him.

If he will not hear them

Tell it unto the church. Again, this is not for the purpose of exposing a brother but to confront sin and restore fellowship. One step that should be taken at this point is to call for a day of fasting and prayer for self-examination. It is true that when one member of a congregation is having severe problems in an area of his life, it usually is also a problem in the lives of other but may not be as obvious yet.

If he neglects to hear the church ---

Rebuke him before the church that all will fear the results of sin, then have no further fellowship with him. We are, however, to continue to pray for him and encourage him to repent.

If this person repents

Then it is our responsibility to show them our genuine love and to help them get back on the right track. Again, the purpose of this whole thing is restoration.