

I. Introduction: The gospel is the foundation of our peacemaking. Ro. 5:1,10 Col. 1:19-22

II. Review: Humbly pursue peace. Rom. 12:18 Heb. 12:14 Matt. 5:9

- A. Conflict is unavoidable – because we are sinners living among other sinners.
- B. Conflict is dangerous – some fight, others flee. Romans 12:17-21
- C. Conflict brings opportunity to glorify God. 1 Co. 10:31 2 Cor. 5:9
- D. Get the log out of your own eye. Mt. 7:1-5 5:23-24 15:18-19 James 4:1-2
 - 1. Humble yourself before God and seek His forgiveness. 1 John 1:8-2:2 Ps. 51:4
 - 2. Humbly seek forgiveness from your brother or sister. Mt. 5:23-24
 - 3. Don't just "mow the weeds", but pull them – the 7 A's of confession.
 - 4. What if the other person refuses to forgive you? Rom. 12:18 Pr. 18:19
 - a. Perhaps you didn't adequately pull the weeds.
 - b. Ask if there are any other issues for which you need to seek their forgiveness.
 - c. Perhaps they need some more time to process everything.
 - d. You may need to seek mediation. Phil. 4:2-3 Pr. 27:5-6

III. When confronting sin, first practice personal peacemaking. Matt. 18:15

- A. Love requires you to *go and show your brother his fault*. Lev. 19:17 Prov. 27:6
 - 1. Once you have removed the log from your eye you can see to help your brother with the speck in his eye. Mt. 7:5
 - 2. This is the duty of every believer. 15:14 Gal. 6:1-2
 - 3. It helps to have "passport" with your brother or sister.
 - 4. Be very careful if you don't have proof of their sin. 1 Co. 13:7
 - 5. Be very cautious about assuming or judging motives. 1 Co. 13:7 2:11 Pr.16:2
- B. Which sins *must* you confront (as opposed to overlook)? 1 Pet. 4:8 Prov. 19:11
 - 1. Notorious sins which could damage the Lord's reputation. 1 Co. 5:1,11 6:9-10
 - 2. Sins which endanger the purity and unity of the church. Rom. 16:16-17
1 Co. 5:6-7 15:33 Titus 3:9-11 II Jo. 9-11 Gal. 2:11ff
 - 3. Sins which could ruin the offender. Js. 5:19-20 Gal. 6:1 Mt. 18:12-14
 - 4. Sins which could hurt others. Mt. 7:12
 - 5. Sins which will seriously affect your relationship with this person. Mt. 18:15
Eph. 4:26-27
- C. Go directly to the offender first before involving others. Mt. 18:15
 - 1. Go as personally as possible.
 - 2. What should you do if someone improperly tells you the sin of another?
Prov. 20:19 2 Cor. 12
 - 3. When might you need to involve others from the beginning? 1 Co. 5:1-2 Ga. 2:11
- D. How you confront your brother's sin is very important. Gal. 6:1-2
 - 1. Prayerfully prepare. Pr. 25:11 21:5
 - 2. It is important to recognize that his trespass is primarily against God, to whom you want to restore him. Gal. 6:1a Ps. 51:4
 - 3. Go for the purpose of restoration (not in a spirit of judgment or anger).
Gal. 6:1a Mt. 4:21 7:1-2 Js. 4:11-12 Eph. 4:29
 - 4. Go spiritually (and not in the flesh). Gal. 6:1 5:15-24
 - 5. Go gently, lovingly, and humbly. Gal. 6:1-2 1 Tim. 1:15 Js. 1:19
 - 6. Be prepared to go repeatedly.

- E. If he repents, rejoice and forgive. Mt. 18:21-22 Luke 17:3 Js. 5:19-20 Pr. 11:30
- F. This kind of interaction should be happening regularly in all close relationships.
 - 1. Do we have the right/duty to confront people who are in authority over us? Mt. 18:15 Luke 17:3 Rom. 13:7
 - 2. How well do you receive correction? Pr. 9:8 10:17 15:31-32
- G. Personal peacemaking is not always successful. Mt. 18:16 Pr. 9:8 12:1 3 Jo. 1:9-10

IV. Be prepared to follow through in restoring your brother or sister.

- A. If necessary, seek help in making peace (assisted peacemaking). Matt. 18:16
 - 1. The accused person may deny having sinned, and may raise counter-accusations against his accuser in which case others may be needed to mediate or arbitrate. Ro. 15:14 Phil. 4:1-2 Prov. 18:17 1 Co. 6:1ff
 - 2. In a case of clear-cut sin (which is envisioned in Matthew 18:15-20), others bear witness against the sinner and join in admonishing him to repent. Dt. 19:15
 - 3. If he repents, forgive and rejoice.
- B. If the wayward brother will not listen to the two or three, take the matter to the church. Mt. 18:17a
 - 1. The leaders of the church determine the validity of the charges and the means of dealing with the matter publicly. Heb. 13:17 1 Thess. 5:12-13 1 Tim. 5:17-22
 - 2. The other members join in to plead with the sinner to repent. II Th. 3:14-15
- C. Finally, if he refuses to listen to the church, he is to be put out of the assembly. Mt. 18:17b-20 1 Co. 5:4-5,13b 1 Ti. 1:19-20 Ps. 1:6
 - 1. He is to be regarded as an unbeliever and an outsider. Mt. 18:17b
 - 2. He is not permitted to participate in the life of the church. I Co. 5:2-5,13b
 - 3. Church members are not even to socialize with him. I Co. 5:9-11 II Th. 3:6,14
 - 4. Church discipline takes place with the authority of the Lord. Mt. 18:18-20
- D. What is the purpose of church discipline?
 - 1. To protect the church from impurity (leaven). I Co. 5:6-7 15:33 Deut. 13:11
 - 2. To bring about the restoration of the fallen brother. I Co. 5:5 II Co. 2:6-8
 - 3. To guard the reputation of Christ. 1 Cor. 5:1
- E. Biblical peacemaking requires a biblical church structure. Heb. 13:17 1 Cor. 5:2,1

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions

1. What can you do if someone will not forgive you?
2. Why should you confront the sins of others?
3. When should you confront the sins of others instead of overlooking them?
4. Why should you be cautious about accusing someone of pride or bad motives?
5. What are some practical principles for how to confront a brother or sister?
6. What does it mean to confront spiritually (as opposed to confronting in a fleshly way)?
7. When and how should you confront someone who is in authority over you?
8. When and how should you seek help from others in confronting sin?
9. What is the purpose of church discipline?
10. How can peacemaking principles be applied in relationships with unbelievers?