

Conflict Resolution God's Way - Part 3

Matthew 18:15-35 (NLT)

St. Joseph Island Free Methodist Church - September 28, 2025

Basic Premise: We can deal with conflict in a Godly and Biblical way.

Review

A _____ P _____ A _____

We are never more like Jesus than when we F _____

"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. 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. 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." (Matt. 18:15-17)

"The J _____ Way" Is So D _____ !!

"We don't need to be P _____, when we are in a community where we each, because of Jesus, can receive and extend U _____
F _____ and L _____."

The Parable of the Forgiven Unforgiving Servant

Matt. 18:21-35 - 10,000 Talents vs. 100 Denarii (1 Talent=1000 Denarii)

☐ Which debt hadn't already been paid or forgiven? 10K or 100?

KEY VERSE:

"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to
F _____ your brothers and sisters from your H _____."

☐ The G _____ Makes the Difference!

☐ We can't miss the H _____ of the King in this story.

"Oh the joy of being forgiven. And oh the joy of having extended forgiveness walking free from bitterness!"

Transformative Truths

- ☐ Unforgiveness that exists beyond today becomes bitterness.
- ☐ The only reasonable expectations we can have of others are those that they have agreed upon with us.”
- ☐ “Jesus may be in your heart, but Grandpa is in your bones.”
- ☐ You can’t say “Yes”, if you can’t say “No.”
- ☐ “Everytime I make an assumption about someone without confirming it with them, I am at risk for believing a lie about this person.”
- ☐ The ultimate solution to conflict is forgiveness. If the parties have communicated, then forgiveness given and received, is the key way conflict can be resolved.
- ☐ Often we compartmentalize Loving God and Loving Our Neighbour, Matthew 22:37-40 makes clear that we must love God AND love our Neighbour (it is two sides of the same coin).
- ☐ “The arena in which we live our relationship with God is not the prayer closet, but our relationships with one another.” - Pete Scazzero

Transformative Internal Inquiries

- ☐ How do I know if I am bitter or not? Have I left it behind and let it go, or am I still hanging on to it? Is it still occupying my thoughts, heart and mind? Do I want the best for them, or do I want them to “pay”?
- ☐ “Why is it that so many of us Christians often make such lousy human beings? Why are we so judgemental, defensive, and touchy?”
- ☐ Can you say to yourself, and about THAT person: “It is good that you exist”?
- ☐ Am I willing to forgive unconditionally, and pay the price of that emotional pain, so that both of us can be free?

Transformative Questions

- ☐ “I would like a better relationship with you. Do you have ideas of what I could do to help improve it?”
- ☐ “What do you wish I knew about you, that you don’t think I know?”
- ☐ “You don’t seem to like it when I do that, how does it make you feel?”

Transformative Scriptures To Read and Study

- ☐ “Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.” (Hebrews 12:14-15)
- ☐ “So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:25-27)
- ☐ “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.” (James 1:19-20)
- ☐ “Sometimes it (our tongue) praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!” (James 3:9-10)
- ☐ “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)
- ☐ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:14-15)
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:8

Reading/Listening Recommendations

Emotionally Healthy Relationships by Pete and Geri Scazzero

Classic Christianity by Bob George

Living Fearlessly by Jamie Winship

Running on Empty by Dr. Jonice Webb

Your Perfect Right: Assertiveness and Equality in Your Life and Relationships, by Alberti/Emmons

Unhelpful Thinking Styles (viewable online)

Excerpt from Emotionally Healthy Relationships Day by Day

Author Richard Rohr has written a lovely prayer that shows us how our life with God cannot be separated from our life with others. They really are, as Jesus taught, two sides of the same coin. I invite you to read this prayer slowly, allowing each truth to inform your life and your relationships:

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming a human being so I do not have to pretend or try to be a God.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming finite and limited so I do not have to pretend that I am infinite and limitless.

I thank you, crucified God, for becoming mortal so I do not have to try to make myself immortal.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming inferior so I do not have to pretend that I am superior to anyone. . . .

I thank you for becoming weak, so I don't have to be strong.

I thank you for being willing to be considered imperfect and strange, so I do not have to be perfect and normal.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for being willing to be disapproved of, so I do not have to try so hard to be approved and liked.

I thank you for being considered a failure, so I do not have to give my life trying to pretend I'm a success.

I thank you for being wrong by the standards of religion and state, so I do not have to be right anywhere.

I thank you for being poor in every way, so I do not have to be rich in any way.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for being all of the things humanity despises and fears, so I can accept myself and others in you.

As Rohr says, we can be thankful for God's call for us "to die" to the manipulative and controlling ways of the world in order to embrace the crucified way of Jesus. Why? Because it is the pathway of Jesus to a life of power and resurrection.

**Submit Your Questions Here
for Next Week's Q&A!**

