

Conflict Resolution

God's Way - Part 3

St. Joseph Island Free Methodist Church

September 28, 2025

QUICK REVIEW

1. ACKNOWLEDGE The Feeling(s)
2. PROCESS It With Christ
3. Take Humble Loving ACTION

Asking Forgiveness &
Extending Forgiveness

“We are never more like Jesus than when we forgive.”

BASIC PREMISE:

**We can deal with conflict in a
Godly and Biblical way.**

- 5. If the conversation with the other party doesn't resolve the issue, involve a third party as an independent mediator.**
- 6. If the meeting and prayer still can't resolve the issue, involve the Official Board in the matter.**

Don't involve the pastor or the board first, if you haven't even had a conversation with the other person yet.

Matthew 18:15-17

“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.”

I FORGIVE HIM





THE JESUS WAY IS DIFFERENT

**We don't need to be perfect
when we are in a community
where, because of Jesus,
we each can receive and extend
unconditional forgiveness and love.**

UNCONDITIONAL

Love and Forgiveness

“What matters to us beyond mere existence, is the explicit confirmation: *it is good that you exist; how wonderful that you are! ...*

We say that a person “*blossoms*” when undergoing *the experience of being loved*; that he becomes wholly himself for the first time: that a new life is beginning for him...”

- Josef Pieper

UNCONDITIONAL

Love and Forgiveness

**“Sounds good...
but what about that person who
wrongs us over and over again?”
- Peter (and us too)**

The Parable of the Forgiven Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold — along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned — to pay the debt.

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”

Matthew 18:21-35

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.”



FORGIVEN

**10,000
TALENTS**



UNFORGIVEN

**100
DENARII**

Matthew 18:35

***“That’s what my heavenly Father
will do to you if you refuse to
forgive your brothers and sisters
from your heart.”***

- Allowing Bitterness in our lives is like...
“Drinking poison and hoping the other person will die.”
- *“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.” - Heb. 12:15*
- *“If you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that **someone has something against you**, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.**” - Matt. 5:23-24*

The **GOSPEL** Makes The Difference



FORGIVEN

**10,000
TALENTS**



FORGIVEN

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Next Week: Q&A!



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