



“The Goal Is Restoration”

February 1, 2026

Galatians 6:1, Matthew 18:15-20



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Introduction:

Is there someone who has something *against you*? Is there someone *you* have something against?

A Framework For Resolving Conflicts :

1. **Go Higher** - How can I find, and honor God in this situation? How could God be glorified in this situation? (1 Cor. 10:31)
2. **Get Real** - How can I own my part of the conflict? (Matthew 7:3-5, James 4:1-3)
3. **Gently Engage** - How can I help others see their own part in the conflict? (Gal. 6:1, James 5:20)
4. **Get Together** - How can I offer forgiveness and arrive at reconciled relationship? (*Resolving Everyday Conflict - Ken Sande*)

Gently Engage (Galatians 6:1-2):

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Why should I engage in seeking to resolve conflict?

1. Jesus has paid for, and desires unity in his body. (Eph. 2:11-22, John 17:21, Psalm 133)
2. The Spirit is grieved when parts of the body are divided. (Eph. 4:29-32)
3. Reconciliation is the way of Jesus. (Romans 5:10-11)

The Gospel Ladder - We seek reconciliation because we have been reconciled, it's who we are. (2 Cor. 5:16-21)

When should I engage in seeking to resolve conflict?

Proverbs 19:11 “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense”

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1. When conflict damages the relationship you had with someone.

- Your thoughts, words, feelings or actions toward the person are altered
- It changes your relationship for the worse.

2. When conflict is hurting others.

- There are others who have been hurt
- Sets a precedent that the action is OK

3. When conflict is hurting the offender.

- Sin damages the person's relationships with God

4. When the conflict is significantly dishonoring the Lord.

- The testimony of Christ in the community is damaged.

How should I engage in seeking to resolve conflict?

1. If at all possible, engage IN PERSON.

- There may be instances where this isn't possible, but make every effort to do this in a face to face conversation.

2. Remember the 4 mindsets of a loving conversation.

- Be Curious, Believe the Best, Express empathy and Mutual sharing.

3. Tone of voice and body language speak loudly.

- Be mindful of your posture and how you are approaching the person.

4. Come prepared to listen as much as you are to speak.

- Ask questions; don't assume you know all there is to know.
- Don't assume you know their motivations or intentions.

5. We aren't going to argue or quarrel

- Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- If it degrades into quarreling, it's best to separate for another time.

6. Remember, RESTORED RELATIONSHIP is the goal.

- Again, the goal is not to win an argument or prove you are right.

When going by yourself doesn't work? (Read Matthew 18:15-20)

1. If going by yourself doesn't lead to confession and/or repentance, Jesus then says to bring 2 or 3 others, as witnesses.

2. If that still doesn't produce repentance, then bring to the church in a public manner.

This is a formal process, done in love, that demonstrates the seriousness of sin and of the significance of the unity of the body of Christ.

Come Holy Spirit! Bring Revelation

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