

Peacefakers, Peacebreakers, and Peacemakers

Pt. 8, Take One or Two Others Along

Review: Speak truth in love by being a good listener, and allow your words to bring healing.

Question: Write down the name or initials of a person in the church that you would trust to help resolve a conflict.

15 *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* → **Matthew 18:15-20**

Question: What is the goal of Matthew 18:15-20?

Hint: Look at Matthew 18:12-15, 20-22

Matthew 18 teaches that in conflict, we should try to?

- a. Seek outside advice right away
- b. Involve as few people for as long as possible
- c. Tell it to friends who will be on our side
- d. Tweet about it, so others can know and give advice

Matthew 18 Teaches:

1. Overlook minor offenses
 - a. Reminder → Overlooking is active. Through Christ, you decide not to talk about it, not to dwell on it, and not let it become bitterness. This may include giving up personal rights.
2. Talk in Private
 - a. Have you made every effort to promote reconciliation and resolve issues?

3. Take One or Two Others Along

a. Work together to agree on an unbiased person

If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

→ **1 Corinthians 6:1-8**

b. On your initiative

- i. This is not just an intervention
- ii. Inform the other person of your plan
- iii. Do not let the reconciler become biased by sharing too many details before the other member is present

c. What is the role of these other people?

- i. They help restore peace by
 1. Asking questions, gathering facts, sharing scripture, praying, encouraging repentance, or rendering a binding decision

ii. 1 Corinthians 6:5; Galatians 6:1

1. What are the characteristics of a reconciler?

4. Tell It to the Church

- a. Ask for help in promoting peace

5. Treat Them as a Nonbeliever

- a. Has anyone here been in a church that has done this? How did it go?

"Nothing is so cruel as the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin." → Dietrich Bonhoeffer