

RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

James 4:2 (NIV) *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.*

- Cowboy Style
- Turtle Style
- Defense Style
- Stonewall Style

4 Steps to Resolving Conflicts

1). Go one-on-one in private

Matthew 18:15 (NIV) *"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."*

2). Bring a trusted friend or two along

¹⁶ *But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'*

3). Involve Church Leadership

¹⁷ *If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church*

4). Church Discipline

and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:18 (NIV) *"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Matthew 18:19 (NIV) *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."* ²⁰ *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Matthew 18:21 (NIV) *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"* ²² *Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*

Matthew 18:23 (NIV) *"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants."* ²⁴ *As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him."* ²⁵ *Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."*

Matthew 18:26 (NIV) *"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'* ²⁷ *The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.*

Matthew 18:28 (NIV) *"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.*

Matthew 18:29 (NIV) *"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'* ³⁰ *"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

Matthew 18:32 (NIV) *"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

Matthew 18:35 (NIV) *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

What Forgiveness is NOT:

- Complete trust
- Conditional
- Automatic removal of pain
- Consequence free

What IS forgiveness?

- A key mark of salvation
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*
- Freeing a person of their guilt.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness=1 way decision.

Reconciliation=2 way decision.

Questions to prepare for Reconciliation

- What is my motive?
- Will I drop the issue?
- Am I open to feedback?
- Do I love the offender as Jesus loves them?

My Next Step

- I will get together with _____ one on one this week and resolve a conflict.
- I will choose to forgive _____ for _____.
- I will ask forgiveness from _____ for _____.
- I will strive to reconcile with _____.