



**“Jesus Helps Our Character, Correction & Compassion!”**

**MATTHEW Chapter 18:15-35**

**> (v15-20) Let’s Develop our CHRISTIAN CHARACTER & CORRECTION!**

**(v15) “If your brother sins against you” – That is, to injure you in any way, by words or conduct; injuring your character, person, or property.**

**- Let me give you four types of people in the conflicts of life:**

**(1) There’s FIGHTERS – “I must win at all cost!” “I’ll get even!” “In your face!”**

**(2) There’s QUITTERS – “I’ll never talk to them again, just forget it I’m done with them.” “I’m leaving and I’m never coming back, you’ll see, so there!”**

**(3) There’s SABOTEURS – This is the stealth revenger. They begin a calculated assault against the person through phone calls, e-mails, they try to gather a posse to go after the offender to discredit and destroy them.**

**> Let’s walk through the three keys in the process of CONFLICT RESOLUTION:**

**#1 – We must EXAMINE YOUR OWN HEART THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD.**

**(Colossians Ch. 3 is great place for our personal examination.)**

**#2 - Our duty is to CONFRONT the sinning individual and to “*speak the truth in love.*” Jesus said, “*go and tell him his fault between you and him.*” Remember, Jesus said, “*Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS.*”**

**- If an offense happens to you, immediately go to the individual and begin discovery, “Was it intentional?” If so, why? “Have I done something to generate this type of animosity?” On the other side of the coin, maybe it was unintentional. Let them know that what they did was hurtful. This will enable them to make a correction in the future.**

**- Barnes commentary gives us good counsel when he writes, “This was required under the law, Leviticus 19:17-18 - *You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.* Seek an explanation of his conduct, and if he has done wrong, administer a friendly and brotherly reproof. This is required to be done alone.**

**#3 – Our goal is RECONCILIATION and UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. Jesus said, “*Father make them one as we are one.*”**

**> How do we RESOLVE our issues in various RELATIONSHIPS (personal, marriage, etc.):**

**- First, we need to RECOGNIZE our FAULTS or SINS.**

**- Second, we need to REPENT of our FAULTS or SINS.**

**- Third, we need to be RECONCILED to one another.**

**- Fourth we need to RESTORE our RELATIONSHIP. (“*Love covers a multitude of sins.*”)**

**- Fifth, we need to make a RESOLVE not to keep sinning.**

**- If we follow these Biblical principles, “*you will have gained a brother,*” which means you’re family (“ohana”). Warren Wiersbe writes, “There is a desperate need for honesty in the church today. “*Speaking the truth in love*” is God’s standard, (Eph. 4:15). If we practice love without truth, it is hypocrisy. But if we try to have truth without love, it may be brutality. Jesus always taught the truth in love. If the truth hurts, it is because “*Faithful are the wounds of a friend*” (Prov. 27:6)**

> **What to do with UNREPENTANT CORRECTION:**

(v16) **If the *sinning brother will not listen, then take two or three witness; still not listening then take to the church*** (that is the church leaders) so that they can deal with the brother through Biblical counsel, if this is rejected then a disciplinary action will be determined, (i.e. – **1 Corin. Ch. 5; notice the results in 2 Corin. 2:1-11).**

(v17-20) **John MacArthur writes**, “The sum of it all means that any duly constituted body of believers, acting in accord with God’s Word, has the authority to declare if someone is forgiven or unforgiven. In other words, whatever they “bind” or “loose” on earth is already “bound” or “loosed” in heaven. When the church says the unrepentant person is bound in sin, the church is saying what God says about that person. When the church acknowledges that a repentant person has been loosed from that sin, God agrees.” (v20 – This is not a reference to Christians gathered for prayer, otherwise if we prayed alone Jesus would not be in our midst, this is an often quoted and misused passage.)

> (v21-35) ***Let’s Practice CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS & COMPASSION!***

(v21) **Let’s talk about “*forgiveness*”** –Peter thought that he would be very generous about forgiving an individual, up to ***seven times***. The rabbis would cite several verses from Amos (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13) and taught that since God forgave Israel’s enemies only 3 times, it was presumptuous and unnecessary to forgive anyone more than 3 times.

(v22) **Jesus on the other hand says, “*seventy times seven, 490 times*.”** This is not a mathematical formula for forgiveness, but the idea is to produce a heart toward one another just like God’s heart towards us. Sin against you cannot be forgiven unless the perpetrator recognizes their sin and asks for your forgiveness. We should always be willing to forgive sin, however if the sin has broken the law (stealing, assault, rape, molestation, etc.) the individual should be prosecuted.

(v22-35) **Here Jesus gives a follow-up illustration, “*Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like,*”** this phrase refers to the church, or to the way in which God will deal with his people.

(v27) **The master “*was moved with compassion,*”** Gk. - *splagchnizomai* (splangkh-nid'-zom-ah-ee); **to have the bowels yearn, i.e. (figuratively) feel sympathy, to pity.**

(v33) **The Greek word for *compassion* is *eleeo* (el-eh-eh'-o); which speaks of divine grace; or to show mercy to.**

(v34-35) **This servant was forgiven of a \$10 million-dollar debt, yet he would not forgive a fellow servant of a \$17 debt; the first servant was forgiven much, but it had no effect on his life. God has forgiven us tremendously and we must forgive one another with a spirit of love and humility.**

> ***Let’s Practice the following scriptures for all our RELATIONSHIPS:***

- **Matthew 6:14-15 - “*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”**

- **Galatians 6:1-5 - *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.***

***- Ephesians 4:25-32 - Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.***

***- Colossians 3:12-17 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***

***LET'S LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND GO4GOD!!!***