

Redemptive Conflict

Sermon Series

November 5, 2023

I. How to deal with conflict as followers of Jesus?

1. Discipline is an act of love towards God and each other.

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (1 Corinthians 4:15)

2. Discipline is an act like a spiritual parent.

I urge you, then, be imitators of me. (1 Corinthians 4:16)

II. How to deal with conflict in redemptive ways?

“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. 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.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

STEP ONE: Approach a brother and sister privately, in maturity. (Matthew 18:15)

Brothers and sisters, 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. (Galatians 6:1-2)

STEP TWO: Approach a brother and sister with witnesses. (Matthew 18:16)

STEP THREE: Approach the leadership of the church. (Matthew 18:17a)

1. Align yourself to the authority God has placed over the church.

2. Write the offense down for clarity (on how the leadership can deal with the conflict Biblically and redemptively).
3. Be respectful. Trust the process and let God deal with the offense.

"Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' This 'knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1)

STEP FOUR: Approach the offender with consequences. (Matthew 18:17b)

III. Jesus during conflicts

1. Jesus offers His divine direction and approval when dealing with conflict redemptively.

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. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (Matthew 18:18-20)

2. Redemptive conflict is to love God and each other through ongoing forgiveness.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)

Reflection Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 4:15-6:11. What areas of conflict was Paul addressing to the Corinth church?
2. Who has been a positive example of dealing with conflict in your life? Share a story.
3. What redemptive step(s) do you need to focus on in your life when dealing with conflict? Share your response.