

The Biblical Method For Resolving Conflicts

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." Matt 18:15-17 (NKJV)

The Application

1. Jesus gives us a Process in this passage.
2. To whom does the passage apply? - All Believers
3. What kind of dispute does this refer to? - All sin
4. Who is to make the first move? - The Victim
5. What is the first step?
 - Go in private
 - Goal is to win the brother
 - Move to next step only if he does not listen.

Second Step

1. Take others with you
2. Goal - Resolution and establish witnesses
3. Move to next step only if he does not listen

Third Step

1. Tell the Church
2. Goal - Resolution
3. Move to next step only if he does not listen

Final Step

1. Church discipline/disfellowship
2. Goal - induce repentance
3. Treat as an unbeliever
4. This passage can be misused when it is used as a lever in a power struggle.

TERMINATING A PASTOR

Option 1 The Biblical Model for Resolving Conflict

Option 2 Dismiss Immediately

Option 3 Negotiated Departure