

“Help Me Understand”

Matthew 18:15-20

How do large church ministries handle conflict?

- Daily
- With regularity
- Continually

“If two bodies are in the same proximity, there will be friction.” —Peter Drucker

1. Directly

“Go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.”

—Matthew 18:15

upage

hoop-ag'-o

(from two words “under” + “lead”) almost always translated “go.”

2nd Person Imperative. “[You] go.....

The burden is on the offended party to initiate reconciliation.

If you were hurt, you must go.

How do you go?

- Don't overreact.
- In a non-traumatizing way,
- Directly to the person who has hurt you,
- With a reconciling spirit---not a club.

A reconciling spirit asks—“Help me understand?”

Triangulation leads to:

- Gossip
- Division
- Feuding
- Sin on our part

2. Quickly

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry...

--Ephesians 4:26

Quickly:

- Quickly, before you speak to others about it.
- Quickly, before resentment sets in.

- Quickly, while the problem is still **small**.
“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.”
—Song of Solomon 2:15

Deal with conflicts at the issue level when it is small. –Dr. John Trent.

- **Issue**
- **Person**
- **Relationship**

Issue level asks—**“Help me understand?”**

3. **In Love**

“If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.” —Matthew 18:15b

- Goal is restored **relationship**.
- Goal is to be **reconciled**.
- Goal is **love** not justice.

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” —Ephesians 4:15

Love asks, **“Help me understand?”**

Love goes the second mile.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”
—Matthew 5:38-42

Memory Verse:

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

—Matthew 18:15