

June 5, 2022

## Attitudes In Conflict, Part 3

by Warren Berkley

“...Go and Tell Him...”

Jesus knew there would be the conflict of offenses. He said once, “temptations to sin are sure to come,” (Lk. 17:1). He also said, “...if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother...” (Matt. 5:23).

He not only knew this would happen, He gave specific direction for reconciliation: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector,” (Matt. 18:15-17).

We may be tempted to assume that nobody ever follows this. We shouldn't be so quick with that negative verdict. Is it conceivable that Christians have followed this godly resolution method, and IT WORKED? It never had to be brought “to the church,” because the conflict was resolved before that step. That's a far better assumption.

If, however, this hasn't been followed, offended parties should re-engage in

compliance with the Lord's teaching. Notice that this is about sin. We may disagree on matters of opinion or have various levels of different understanding of passages where no sin is involved. So this teaching isn't for just anything we might label as a conflict. Notice the words: sin, fault, witnesses.

There are two keys to the application of this text. One is attitude. If we are hardened in our dislike of the alleged offender, that can keep us from making active and sincere application of the text. Two, if we do not have sufficient evidence and witnesses, that can and should create hesitation.

Otherwise, trust in the Lord's wisdom should cause us to promptly do what He said to do – in the circumstance He described. What joy and hope that we don't have to be stuck in long-term bitterness. If our hearts are centered in God, we will want to apply this passage, seeking the repentance of offenders, and protecting ourselves against the anxiety and stress of unresolved disputes.

“Go,” (Matt. 5:23-24). “Rebuke,” (Luke 17:3). “Forgive,” (Luke 17:3,4). If necessary, “Withdraw,” (Matt. 18:17). But, do not let the sun go down on your wrath (Eph. 4:26,27).

And, as to the intended outcome, read this.

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Our summer meeting** with Mike Walls is scheduled for June 19-22

**Bulverde Summer Series** each Thursday evening through the summer on “Love One Another”

**Youth Weekend at Cedar Park** June 24-26

**Our fall meeting** with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins," (Jas. 5:19-20).

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility. His recent shots have not helped.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** is in rehab for her foot.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. Alene is having hip issues.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** has complete all his scheduled treatments and is waiting for results and decisions for next steps.

**Debbie McMurray** had her last chemo treatment but will begin radiation soon.

**Sylvia Stinnett** is having pain in her neck.

**David Calley** had complications from having stents put in.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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