

Matthew 18:15-35

Matthew 5:23-24

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your **brother has something against you**, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to your brother**, then come and offer your gift.

Psalms 133:1-3

How good and pleasant it is when brothers **live together in unity!** For **there the LORD bestows his blessing...**

THE PREACHER'S OUTLINE & SERMON BIBLE

God does not accept the worship of a person who holds malice against Him or against any of His people.

- A break with another person means a break with God.
- Unforgiveness toward another person means unforgiveness by God.
- Not being right with another person means not being right with God.
- Broken fellowship with another person means broken fellowship with God.
- Bad feelings toward another person mean unacceptance by God.
- Anger against another person means rejection by God.

A person just cannot hope or expect to be right with God if he is not right with his brother. He must forgive and be reconciled if he expects to be forgiven and reconciled to God.

1 John 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For **anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen**. And he has given us this command: **Whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

Three major problems

- **James 3:2**
We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
- **Proverbs 21:2**
All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- **Proverbs 18:19 (NKJV)**
A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city...

DEALING WITH OFFENSES

In a word... Commitment ... loyalty

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is **born for adversity.**

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1. Commitment to Confront

Matthew 18:15

"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.

2. Commitment to Restore the Relationship

Matthew 18:15

"...If he listens to you, ***you have won your brother over.***

Matthew 5: 24

...First go and ***be reconciled to your brother,***

3. Commitment to Listen

Proverbs 18:13

He who ***answers before listening***-- that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 18:13 (MSG)

Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.

Proverbs 18:2 (NLT)

Fools have no interest in understanding; ***they only want to air their own opinions.***

James 1:19 (NLT)

My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

- **Matthew 18:16**

If he won't listen, ***take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest,*** and try again.

- **Proverbs 21:2**

Every way of a man ***is right in his own eyes,***

4. Commitment to Forgive

Matthew 18:35

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you ***forgive your brother from your heart.***"

Ephesians 4:32

...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, ***just as God through Christ has forgiven you.***

Matthew 6:14-15

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But ***if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.***