

Conflict Resolution by the Book

Matthew 5:23-24 “So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 18:15-17 “If your brother sins against you, go and rebuke him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he won’t listen, take one or two more with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. If he pays no attention to them, tell the church. But if he doesn’t pay attention even to the church, let him be like an unbeliever and a tax collector to you.”

Galatians 6:1-2 “Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won’t be tempted also. Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

1st Corinthians 5:1-13 “I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— by no means referring to this world’s immoral people, or to the greedy and swindlers, or to idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world. But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother who is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a reviler, a drunkard or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. For what is it to me to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are inside? But God judges outsiders. Put away the evil person from among yourselves.”

2nd Corinthians 2:5-11 “If anyone has caused pain, he has not caused pain to me, but in some degree—not to exaggerate—to all of you. The punishment by the majority is sufficient for such a person, so now you should forgive and comfort him instead; otherwise, this one may be overwhelmed by excessive grief. Therefore I urge you to confirm your love to him. It was for this purpose I wrote: so I may know your proven character, if you are obedient in everything. Now to whom you forgive anything, I do too. For what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for you in the presence of Christ, so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his intentions.”

2nd Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15 “Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother who walks irresponsibly and not according to the tradition received from us... And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don’t associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. Yet don’t treat him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”

James 3:13-18 “Who is wise and understanding among you? He should show his works by good conduct with wisdom’s gentleness. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don’t brag and lie in defiance of the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

James 5:19-20 “My brothers, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, he should know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his life from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

Jude 1:22-23 “Have mercy on some who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; on others have mercy in fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”

Luke 6:42 “First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck in your brother’s eye.”

Titus 3:10-11 “Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person is perverted and sins, being self-condemned.”

First Timothy 5:19 “Don’t accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses.”

Relevant sections in the bylaws are: *Church Discipline*, pages 24-25; *The Role of Deacons*, page 17; and *The Principle of Church Membership*, page 12.

Resolving conflict with a staff member begins the same as for any member, one goes to the person. If that doesn’t resolve the problem, one goes to the pastor; then if necessary, the Personnel Committee; and finally, the Deacons.

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