

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

September 21, 2025

The Gospels

“How to Handle Conflict”

Matthew 18:15-20

Rev. Neal Avirett

¹⁵ “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

¹⁸ “I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

¹⁹ “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: (Books marked with * are available to be checked-out in the Asbury Discipleship Resource Center)

- *The Holy Bible* (Several FREE copies are available in the DRC)
- *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure*, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*, Jerry Bridges
- *Your Church is Too Safe*, Mark Buchanan
- *Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest*, Edward T. Welch
- *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Ken Sande
- *Resolving Everyday Conflict*, Ken Sande & Kevin Johnson

Icebreaker I – Can you share a time when someone came to you privately to resolve a conflict—how did that feel compared to being confronted in a group or on social media?

Icebreaker II – Why do you think many people avoid direct conversations when conflict arises?

1. According to Matthew 18:15–20, why is the first step of addressing conflict done privately, and what does that reveal about God’s heart for reconciliation?
2. How does involving one or two others in the process (v.16) add wisdom and accountability without turning it into gossip or division?
3. What role does the church community play in conflict resolution, and how might this look practically today?
4. Jesus promises His presence where “two or three are gathered in His name” (v.20). How does this shape the way we approach difficult conversations with others?
5. How can we balance truth and grace when confronting a brother or sister in Christ, ensuring we restore rather than condemn?
6. What impacted you most from the sermon? How might you apply this week’s sermon to your life?
7. How might this group pray for you this week?