

spiritual infant

# DISCIPLE ME

## THE ONE ABOUT CONFLICT PART 2: Gentle Accountability



### ICEBREAKER: CONFLICT COACH

Let's have a little fun to start. Imagine for a moment that you have the budget to hire a *personal Conflict Coach* - someone whose full-time job is to step in and help you handle tough conversations, misunderstandings, or moments of tension in your life. Your coach could show up anywhere - at home, at work, at church, online, or even in your head before you hit "send." If you could hire this coach to help you in *one area of your life*, where would it be and why?

### READ: CONFLICT CONTINUED

In our last conversation, we began looking at the topic of *conflict* and how followers of Jesus are supposed to handle it differently from the world around us. Instead of avoiding it, gossiping about it, or blowing up - Jesus calls us to deal with it directly and with love. But sometimes, even when we've done that - the conflict doesn't go away. The other person may not respond well or may not even see the problem. So what do we do then?

That's where today's passage picks up. Jesus gives us the next step - a picture of what *gentle accountability* looks like inside the family of God. This is about more than just confronting someone; it's about caring enough to walk with them toward restoration.

### Read Matthew 18:15-17a

*"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church..."*

### DISCUSS

1. Why do you think Jesus adds "take one or two others along"?
2. What might that communicate about His heart and approach?
3. How does this step feel different than the first one (talking one-on-one)?

4. Why do you think many of us skip or avoid this kind of conversation?
5. What would change if people actually *followed this process* instead of gossiping or ghosting?
6. What does this passage teach us about the goal of accountability - is it punishment or restoration?

## **STUDY: Galatians 6:1-2**

Jesus' instructions in Matthew 18 show us what to *do* when conflict continues - how to involve others in a way that protects relationships and promotes healing. But the *how* matters just as much as the *what*.

It's not just about getting the steps right - it's about carrying the right heart. That's where Paul's words in Galatians 6 come in. He reminds us that accountability and correction should never be harsh or prideful. They should always be rooted in gentleness and love.

### **Read Galatians 6:1-2**

- What word stands out most to you in this verse - *restore, gently, watch, or carry*? Why?
- How does "gentle restoration" differ from judgment or criticism?
- What might it look like to "carry someone's burden" instead of just pointing it out?
- When have you experienced someone helping you get back on track in a way that was kind and life-giving?
- Why is gentleness so important when dealing with someone's sin or mistake?

Gentle accountability is not about a "gotcha" moment – where you catch someone doing wrong - it's about helping the people you care about get things right. In a healthy church, correction isn't punishment; it's partnership. We restore others because *we've been restored*. We carry burdens because *Jesus carried ours*. And we do it all gently, because grace is the tone of every truth we speak.

## **CHALLENGE: INVITATION TO ACCOUNTABILITY**

This week, take a step of humility and courage. Go to someone you *trust* - a friend, mentor, or family member who loves Jesus and loves you - and invite them to speak honestly into your life. Here's what you might say: *"I'm trying to grow to be more like Christ. Would you be willing to share one area where you see that I could grow or change to reflect Him better?"*

Then listen - really listen. Don't defend. Don't explain. Just receive. Ask God to use their words to help shape your character and strengthen your faith. Because accountability isn't about shame - it's about transformation. And when we give others permission to speak truth in love, we give God room to do His best work in us.