

CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION

(Luke 17:1-4; Matthew 18:15-17; 5:23-24)

WE CANNOT AVOID CONFLICT OR CONFRONTATION IN RELATIONSHIPS

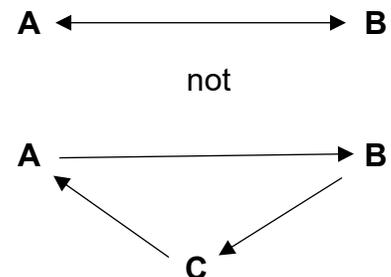
- **Conflict and hurt caused by sin are unavoidable**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. ²It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³So watch yourselves.” (Luke 17:1-3)

- **God commands us to confront sin individually and corporately**

If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, “I repent,” you must forgive them. (Luke 17:3-4)

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But 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.” ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)



- **Avoiding the confrontation of sin is itself a sin**

If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. (Luke 17:3)

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault.... (Matthew 18:15)

- **God lays responsibility for resolution on BOTH parties**

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

RESPONSE: Act like God’s commands are for our good and His glory (they are)