

Rule of Christ

A Biblical Process for Dealing with Concerns

Step One: Look at Yourself (Matthew 18: 8-9)

Jesus tells us to take time to examine our role in the conflict. Ask yourself these questions:

- Can I let it go? (If the answer is yes, there is no need to confront the other person.) If not...
- What may the other person perceive that I have contributed to this problem?
- What does God see?

Journal on these questions to gain insight for the next steps. At this point, you may see things in your own behavior that needs changing. Resolve to do that. Think through what it is you hope to communicate with the person with whom you are in conflict, and what you would like to see as an outcome.

Step Two: One on One (Matthew 18:15)

The purpose of the second step is to resolve the conflict....not to get mad or to get even. Remember to:

- Speak for yourself by starting your sentences with “I”
- Work hard to understand the other person’s point of view
- Work together to create solutions

If not resolved by a one-on-one conversation....

Step Three: Get Some Objective Help (Matthew 18:16)

Others can help the two parties see possibilities. You can invite someone to come with you as you meet with the other person to help mediate or facilitate the process. Or you can involve the SPRC to assist in you resolving this concern. To do that:

- Make sure you have done steps 1 and 2 first.
- Write a one page summary of your concern and give it to the SPRC.
- The SPRC upon reviewing the concern will work with you in resolving the issue.

If not resolved by involving the SPRC...

Step Four: Take It to the Church (Matthew 18: 17a)

Use the resources of the Church. This might be the time to bring in the Conflict Transformation Team or to be in contact with the District Superintendent.

If not resolved by outside help from the wider church...

Step Five: Shake the Dust (Matthew 18: 17b)

There are some issues that cannot be resolved. The church should remember its mission. Let go of the anger and disappointment at the unresolved issues and move on with your ministry.

Step Six: God is There (Matthew 18:20)

Remember God’s powerful promise to be with us in the midst of our problems.