

**“Think Before You Speak”**  
**Sticks & Stones-Part 4**  
**Matthew 18:15-20**  
**August 18, 2013**

*‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.’ John 13:34-35 (ESV)*

**Conflict Resolution:**

**Because Jesus saves us to be a part of His community, we must resolve our conflict.**

*‘If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.’ Matthew 18:15-20 (ESV)*

**God’s Commands to Resolve Conflict.**

➤ **Step 1 – Go alone.**

*“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, ‘If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?’” Galatians 2:11-14 (ESV)*

➤ **Step 2 – Take someone with you.**

➤ **Step 3 – Tell the church.**

➤ **Step 4 – Treat that person as a non-believer.**

**Truths to think of before we speak:**

➤ **Truth #1 – Conflict must always be about the restoration of the person that has sinned against you or God.**

➤ **Truth #2 – Conflict worsens when we gossip and we do not go straight to the source of the conflict.**

➤ **Truth #3 – Conflict is never resolved if it is never discussed openly with the other person.**

➤ **Truth #4 – We are not held responsible for the response of the person in question; their response is on them.**

➤ **Truth #5 – We are held responsible for our approach to the resolution of the conflict.**

➤ **Truth #6 – We need to always approach conflict out of love for the other person in Grace and Humility, willing to give mercy and forgiveness.**

➤ **Truth #7 – Pray, this is the most important, without God’s help we are severely handicapped when it comes to Conflict Resolution.**