



“Thou Hast Gained Thy Brother”

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

--Matthew 18:15

4 Ways to Handle an Offense:

1. IGNORE - BURY IT

- Pretend it never happened; repress it
- Causes great pressure within; stress

2. SEETHE

- Be rude & bitter, without discussing

3. EXPLODE!

- Try to lash out and hurt; get even

4. CONFRONT

- Talk about it; go to him in love and concern
- Use Biblical guidelines...

About Biblical Confrontation

- **DEFINITION:** to face boldly; to oppose
- **Examples**
 - Samuel, to Eli (1Sam.3:15-17)
 - Hanani, to King Asa (2Chron.16:7)
- **Bible commands!**

**Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart:
thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour,
and not suffer sin upon him.” --Lev.19:17**

**“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against
thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.” --
Luke 17:3**

About Biblical Confrontation

- Bible instruction:

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

--James 5:19-20

- We are guilty if we do not

- **“his blood will I require of you!”**

--Exek.33:6; Acts 20:26

- **“Am I my brother’s keeper?” Gen.4:9**

Deciding **WHETHER** to Confront: *Should I or Shouldn't I?*

Don't Go	GO!!
"It's embarrassing!"	You may have just misunderstood
"I don't know him that well"	It's commanded, if indeed sin
"I don't want to hurt his feelings"	His soul's in danger
"I don't want to be the 'bad guy'"	He may not see it
"Who am I to go to him?"	He could pose a danger to you and the church

Deciding **WHETHER** to Confront: *Should I or Shouldn't I?*

Is it a sin?

- Sin is a transgression of God's LAW (1John 3:4)
- "If thy brother shall trespass against thee" (Matt.18:15)
- "If any man see his brother sin a sin..." (1John 5:16)

...Or just my opinion?

- "...passing judgment on disputable matters" (Rom.14:1)

Seriousness of "offenses"

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." --Matthew 18:6

Guidelines When Confronting...

- Proceed with urgency **Mt.18:8-9**
- Motivated by love **Mt.18:10-14**
- Pray first **1John 5:16**
- Consider what to say **Prov.15:28**
- Stay calm **Jas.1:19-20**
- Be gentle **Gal.6:1 Prov.18:19**
- Various strategies
 - Ask questions **Gen.3:9 Jn.8:10**
 - Ask permission **Job.4:2**
 - Build hope **Ezra 10:2**
 - Be merciful **Dan.4:27 Matt.5:7**
- Be bold & courageous **Gal.2:11, 13**

After the Confrontation

- Don't treat him like an enemy
 - There are further steps you can take:
 - Get some help (Mt.18:16)
 - Tell the church (Mt.18:17)
- Some will not change
 - Withdrawal of fellowship (Mt.18:17-18)
 - These crucify Jesus again (Heb.6)
 - Bring reproach to Christ (2Pet.2:20-22)
- But hopefully, they WILL change!

“if he hearest thee, thou hast gained thy brother!!”

Matt.18:15