

Go To Your Brother

Satan sets many traps for us. He is proud and deceitful, always trying to pull us away from God and from each other. That's why we need to stay alert and not fall for his tricks. Just think about all the conflict we see in the world—between countries, governments, churches, marriages, families, friends, and coworkers. What if we loved each other the way Jesus loves us? What if everyone truly aimed for peace and unity? Imagine loving Christ enough—and trusting Him enough—to do the hard thing and go directly to your brother. Too often, we avoid this simple step. Instead, we replay the offense in our minds, recruit allies, vent to others, or seek people who will simply validate our side rather than help us pursue reconciliation. Think of how many biblical conflicts might have ended differently if people had gone to their brother. God's word teaches us how to handle our hearts and actions during conflict. Let's take a look.

Matthew 5:21-26 Pursuing Your Offended Brother

- This looks out for your brother, who has something against you.
- How important is it from God's point of view? Leave your gift!
- Jesus was also practical. Put the fire out before it spreads! A spark can turn into a flame. Anger, bitterness, broken fellowship, and destruction aren't small things. Jesus doesn't wait until the house is burning down.
- If you have sinned, then repent. If you were misunderstood, practice humility with clarity. If they're angry without cause, don't dismiss them. You should still pursue peace. In every case, **go to your brother!**

Matthew 18:15-20 Pursuing Your Offending Brother

- Love never ignores what's good for your brother. We still protect them.
- This describes an individual who may pull in the body to win an offending brother.
- Jesus was serious. Such attitudes are not allowed in the kingdom.
- This is not about winning an argument, finding a way to punish someone you don't like, or handing it off to the church. It's about gaining your brother. Jesus didn't say, "Go prove them wrong and straighten them out!"
- Take note: whether you've offended your brother or he's offended you, **go to your brother!**

Matthew 6:14-15 Pursuing Reconciliation

- These principles need to be present in prayer.
- We may pretend unresolved relationships don't matter, but God doesn't.
- Our need for forgiveness motivates love, mercy, grace, and humility.
- We cannot force reconciliation, but we should do our part with sincerity.
- Today's takeaway shouldn't be "Okay, let's go have difficult conversations." It should be, "Kingdom citizens who have been forgiven become people who forgive and reconcile."
- **1 John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."** So, you can **go to your brother!**
 - The Lord Jesus took the first step toward you. He didn't wait for you to make the first move. While we were still weak, while we were still sinners, while we were enemies, Christ died for us (**Romans 5:6-11**). The One who tells us, 'Go to your brother,' first came to us. What will your next step be?