

Gently Engage Others

The third of 4 godly responses to conflict
Gently restore the sinner – Gal 6:1

Life Bridge Community Church
Week 6 of 8



Review

The Gospel Changes Everything: If God has been so gracious with me, shouldn't I be gracious with others?

G#1; Going to Higher Ground: Don't leave God out of conflict. What would please and honor HIM in this moment?

G#2; Get Real About Yourself: Don't focus on the other person; start with your own sin.

A Good Apology (Confession): One that restores and redeems the other person.

Gently Engage Others

See Galatians 6:1 – *"If someone is caught in sin ... restore him [or her] gently."*

Is it our responsibility to point out sin in others?

Big Misunderstanding: Do not judge

See Matthew 7:1 – *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged..."*

Far from saying that we are prohibited from pointing out sin in others, Scripture mandates that we do so. If we love people, we will take their sin seriously, desiring to restore them & their relationship with God and others.

Our purpose is redemption, not punishment! God will punish. We are agents of reconciliation.

See 2 Cor 5:11-21

“Nothing is so cruel as the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

God’s plan for us is community.
Therefore, we need each other.

Our Approach Matters

There are good and bad ways to speak into another’s life.

Bad Approach – The 3 rd G is NOT:	Better Approach – The 3 rd G IS:
Just confronting someone; looking forward to it	Genuinely loving someone
Going to them in a spirit of anger or vengeance	Going to them with the goal of restoring relationship
Considering myself better; a self-righteous spirit	Leading them away from the cliff’s edge of sin
Waiting to pounce when we catch them doing wrong	Being gentle, respectful, kind

You can’t correct sin by sinning.

Go in love, or don’t go at all.

Remember the “golden rule” (see Luke 6:31) and the “golden response.”

How did God treat you in your sin? (see Romans 5:1-11)

Christians are called by God to judge ideas and actions, not people. Love people and tell the truth.

Process for Pointing out Sin in Others

See Matthew 18.

Principle: Keep it as private as possible as long as possible.

Step 1: Talk to them

When there's a problem, go to them in private and in person (don't use technology).



Don't assume their motivation. You know "what," not "why."

Be quick to listen, slow to speak. Ask questions, like "What's going on there?"

See James 1:19-27.

Bring hope through the gospel. God forgives sin!

Step 2: Get help

Take a trustworthy brother or sister with you to help you both.

A third party can mediate – help us to hear and understand each other.

Don't Forget the Church

Bring the Word to bear. Pray. Seek godly counsel. Remember: Word of God, People of God, Spirit of God.

How Do I Have a Difficult Conversation?

Although our focus is on reconciliation, we do still need to resolve the issue.

The PAUSE Principle

“PAUSE” long enough to get at the heart of the issue.

See Phil 2:3-4 – “...look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Prepare for the encounter

Pray. Seek godly counsel. Study Scripture. Think through alternatives. Plan what to say. Anticipate reactions.

(See Prov 14:8)

Don't let your mouth finish sentences your brain hasn't already finished.

Affirm relationships over issues

Every conflict involves people,
and they are always more important than the problem.

Understand interests

Interests (what I really want; motivation, concern, desire, need) underlie **positions** (how I think I can get it)

(See Phil 2:1-4)

Search for creative solutions

Collaborate on achieving the underlying goal / interest, rather than just opposing the current position

Don't get stuck on only two choices. Be creative ... together! *(See Prov 14:8)*

Evaluate options objectively and reasonably

Work together to establish specific, concrete steps that address the interests of both parties *(See Dan 1:11-16)*

Discussion Question(s)

1. In what situation(s) are you tempted to be the “sin police”? Are there any moments like that of which you need to repent?

2. It’s easy to just have my way. (Level 1)

It’s hard to act lovingly toward another, despite my selfish heart. (Level 2)

But it’s even harder (and only here do we truly honor God) to actually love my neighbor. (Level 3)

Which of these “levels” best characterizes your typical day? What is a concrete step you could take to partner with the Spirit as He works to “level you up”?

3. In our culture, people do not respond well to unsolicited advice. Sometimes we need to rush in and rescue someone who is about to jump off a cliff, even if they don’t want our help. But most of the time, we need to refrain from unsolicited advice, pray, love them, and trust the Lord.

Drawing on what we’ve learned in this lesson, how can we tell the difference?

4. We get really touchy and defensive when someone talks about personal responsibility in the context of our sin, but we often feel free to talk about others’ responsibility for *their* sin? Why is that? What concrete steps can we take to grow in this area?