

## God Loves You

Part Three- Love One Another!

January 14, 2024

*"May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully."*  
(Ephesians 3:18–19, New Living Translation)

*"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other."*  
(1 John 4:11, NLT)

*"Now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*  
(John 13:34–35, NLT)

## HOW DO WE MOVE FROM CONFLICT BACK TO LOVE?

*"If another believer sins against you..."* (Matthew 18:15a, NLT)

### - Is it sin, or can I overlook it?

*"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."*  
(Ephesians 4:2, NLT)

### - Have I owned my part?

*"Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?"*

*How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye, 'when you can't see past the log in your own eye?"*

*Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."*  
(Matthew 7:3–5, NLT)

## 1. First, talk in private, one-on-one.

- **What do I say?** *"When you did/said \_\_\_\_\_, I felt \_\_\_\_\_."*

*"If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back."*  
(Matthew 18:15b, NLT)

*"But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again,"*  
(Matthew 18:16a, NLT)

## 2. If they don't listen and repent, try again with one or two others.

*"so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses."*  
(Matthew 16:16b, NLT)

*"If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church."* (Matthew 18:17a, NLT)

## 3. If they don't listen and repent, try again with a group from the church.

*"Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."*  
(Matthew 18:17b, NLT)

## 4. If they don't listen and repent, treat them like an unbeliever.

## 5. If at any point they listen and repent, forgive them.

*"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."*  
(Colossians 3:13, NLT)

## WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOU?

### 1. Admit what you did wrong.

### 2. Apologize.

*"I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_" (be specific)*

### 3. Ask for forgiveness.

*"Will you forgive me?"*

### 4. Accept the consequences.

*"With God's help, I will not do that again. I want to be better. How can I be better?"*

*"Is there anyone else I need to talk to?"*

*"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me."*  
(John 17:21, NLT)

*"We love each other because he loved us first."* (1 John 4:19, NLT)

*"If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."*  
(1 John 1:9, NLT)

*"If you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*  
(Matthew 5:23–24, Holman Christian Standard Bible)