

Step by Step Restoration

Number three in the series: *Make Peace Not War*
Biblical tools for handling conflict
January 16 & 17, 2010

Six steps for straightening things out, all from one verse: "*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted*" (Gal 6:1).

Brothers...

1. Consider what you have in common with the person you seek to correct.

Are we on the _____?

...if someone is caught in a sin...

2. Objectively evaluate the nature of the offense.

What has this person _____?

...you who are spiritual...

3. Engage in some introspection about your qualification.

Am I trusting in _____?

...should restore him...

4. Focus on the goal, which is not to hurt but to help!

What am I really trying to _____?

...gently.

5. Keep your cool and don't seek to retaliate.

How am I _____?

But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

6. Be careful about falling in the same hole.

Am I about to _____ myself?

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Have you ever worked to restore an old piece of furniture? How did it turn out?
2. What one idea about handling conflict first jumped out at you from Gal. 6:1?
3. How does a person's faith (or lack of it) come into play when you approach confronting them about an offense? For advanced study on this, see 1 Cor. 5:9-13.
4. 2 Tim. 4:2 says we are to "correct, rebuke and encourage...." We adjust what we offer according to the circumstances of each conflict. Note that the first of these words is an appeal to reason, the second is an appeal to the conscience, and the third is an appeal to the will. Different problems call for different approaches. Some call for all three! What is needed in the situation you are currently facing?
5. Gal. 6:1 is followed by 6:2 - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Why are these verses right next to each other?
6. In Gen. 4:9, Cain tried to excuse his behavior by asking God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" What is the implied answer? While each person has to take personal responsibility, we also bear a kind of responsibility for each other. How does this work?
7. What single qualification most helps us to be both objective and helpful?
8. Our goal is to restore others, not to denigrate and damage them. See if you can memorize Eph. 4:29.
9. Read James 3:1-12 to see the power of our words. Why is this an important

warning to remember when it comes to dealing with conflict?

10. If you need some support in handling a painful situation, come up after the service for prayer. Someone is waiting for you.

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Brothers...

1. Consider what you have in common with the person you seek to correct.

Are we on the same page?

...if someone is caught in a sin...

2. Objectively evaluate the nature of the offense.

What has this person done?

...you who are spiritual...

3. Engage in some introspection about your qualification.

Am I trusting in God?

...should restore him...

4. Focus on the goal, which is not to hurt but to help!

What am I really trying to accomplish?

...gently.

5. Keep your cool and don't seek to retaliate.

How am I behaving?

But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

6. Be careful about falling in the same hole.

Am I about to slip into sin myself?