

SERMON OUTLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

## “Solving Personal Conflict”

Matthew 18:15-17

INTRODUCTION: “Road rage” & the shooting of a taxi cab driver

### I. JESUS GAVE US A METHOD OF SOLVING INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT

#### A. Go to the person personally, just the two of you (v. 15)

1. Before you do, in prayer, put your complaint into words
2. Go to him in the spirit of Galatians 6:1
3. What happens when we talk to others before going to him?  
+ *The story of the Pastor, the gossip, & a feather pillow*

#### B. When we don't follow the principle “he & I alone” these things happen:

1. Our genuine love for him is highly suspect
2. The hearer(s) of our complaint is tempted to sin against him as well
3. The redemptive process is hindered if not destroyed

### II. SHOULD YOUR “ONE ON ONE” EFFORTS FAIL, JESUS GAVE US TWO OTHER STEPS

#### A. Take with you one or two others on a mission of peace (v.16)

#### B. If this fails, go to “the authorities” [church leaders, boss, parent, police] (v.17)

#### C. Resist being a “tattletale” by automatically going to the last step!

#### D. This 3-step method of Jesus:

1. Restores your relationship with the offender
2. Involves a minimum number of people
3. Causes you to examine your heart
4. Eliminates gossip & slander
5. Strengthens faith instead of hurting it

### III. WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

#### A. Always at the cross of Jesus where our forgiveness was won!

#### B. Jesus' cross leads us to real repentance, restitution & a life of love

CONCLUSION: *There is a better way than shooting someone!*

