

A Brother Offended
Avoiding Becoming a Third Party
Presented by
Patrick Van Hoecke

A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle. Proverbs 18:19

Workshop Outline:

- I. The importance of passport.
- II. A lesson learned the hard way.
- III Being watchful over our words.
- IV. Being watchful over our own heart.

Break out questions:

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women , who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose name are in the book of life. Philippians 4:2-3

1. Was it appropriate for Paul to call these two women out publicly for the unresolved conflict between them? Why or why not?
- 2, While we do not know the exact nature of the conflict between the two women does it appear like the issue between them was an issue of unrepentant sin? Why or why not?
3. Is there anything in the tone of how Paul calls the two of them out or in his words that helps cushion his admonition or shows the two women that he loves and respects them?
4. Paul called on his “true companion” to help these sisters in Christ. If you were in a conflict with another believer that you were having a difficult time resolving, who would you call upon to help you reconcile the conflict? What are the qualities of this person that would cause you to enlist their help?

I. The importance of passport.

The Elements of Passport: Can I trust you?
Do you really care?
Can you really help me?

(Taken from The Peacemaker by Ken Sande)

II. A lesson learned the hard way- *What I said and what she heard.*

III. Being watchful over our words.

It is foolish to expect someone to respond in a reasonable manner that has already demonstrated that they are not willing to listen to reason and who is not already behaving in a reasonable manner.

I Peter 3:13-17

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed. have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; **yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (Bold emphasis mine).

Ephesians 4:29-32

Let not corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you along with all malice. **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.** (Bold emphasis mine)

IV. Being watchful over our own heart.

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

A Brother Offended

*Avoiding Becoming A Third Party
In The Reconciliation Process*

*Presented By
Patrick Van Hoecke
Conciliator and Biblical Counselor*



Workshop Outline

1. The importance of passport.
2. A lesson learned the hard way.
3. Being watchful of our words.
4. Being watchful over our own heart.



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than a strong city and quarreling is like
the bars on a castle.*

Proverbs 18:19

Scripture verses in this presentation are taken from the ESV.



Chat Question:

Is it more challenging for you to navigate through a conflict you are directly involved in or to help others navigate through a conflict that you are not a party to?



Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

Proverbs 26:17



To Meddle:

Interfere in or busy oneself unduly with something that is not one's concern. Touch or handle something without permission.

Oxford Dictionary



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Philippians 4:2-3



Break Out



The importance of Passport



Elements of Passport

Can I trust you?
Do you really care?
Can you really help?

From *The Peacemaker* by Ken Sande



A Lesson Learned The Hard Way

*“What I am not saying,” –
but really I was saying.*



*“A brother offended is more
unyielding than a strong city,
and quarreling is like the bars
of a castle.”*

Proverbs 18:19



Being Watchful of Our Words.



It is foolish to expect someone to react in a reasonable manner who is already demonstrating that they are not willing to listen to reason and is not already behaving in a reasonable manner .



It is foolish to expect that someone will respond according to the Spirit who is not walking in the Spirit when being directly admonished or reproved.



“Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

Proverbs 21:24



Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 9:8



Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Galatians 6:1



1 Peter 3:13-17

*yet do it with gentleness and respect,
having a good conscience, so that
when you are slandered, those who revile
your good behavior in Christ
may be put to shame.*



A Heavy Hand or A Heavy Heart?



*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32



In the chat:

What would be some words you would avoid using that might trigger defensiveness or hostility with someone you were trying to help see a hard truth?



But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.



But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Galatians 2:11-14



More Thumping and Less Sticking



A good question will enhance communication and understanding. An accusation will shut down communication and harden the heart of the person accused.



A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.
Proverbs 18:2



*If one gives an answer before he hears,
it is his folly and shame.*
Proverbs 18:13



*It is better to not be understood
than it is to be misunderstood.*



Be Watchful Over Your Own Heart
*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for
from it flow the springs of life.*
Proverbs 4:23



A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1



For lack of wood the fire goes out,

Proverbs 26:20a



The Destination or The Journey?



When Ministry Is Halted

1. Did I genuinely love the person and did my actions show it?
2. Did I share the truth of God's word with them?



When Ministry Is Halted

3. Did I leave room for God to speak to them?
4. Did I give them time to hear God speak?



When Ministry Is Halted

5. Was I truly committed to see the process all the way through?



But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
James 3:17-18 NASB






