

2. Step Two: One on One (Matthew 18:15)

“If your brother/sister sins against you, go and show him/her his/her fault, just between the two of you. If he/she listens to you, you have won your brother/sister over.

The purpose of the second step is to resolve the conflict...not to get mad or to get even. Remember to:

- Speak for yourself by starting your sentences with “I”
- Work hard to understand the other person’s point of view
- Work together to create solutions

If not resolved by a one-on-one conversation....

3. Step Three: Get Some Objective Help (Matthew 18:16)

“But if he/she will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

Others can help the two parties see possibilities. You can invite someone to come with you as you meet with the other person to help mediate or facilitate the process. Or you can involve the SPRC to assist you in resolving this concern. To do that:

- Make sure you have done steps 1 and 2 first.
- Write a one page summary of your concern and give it to the SPRC.
- The SPRC upon reviewing the concern will work with you in resolving the issue.

If not resolved by involving the SPRC...

4. Step Four: Take It to the Church (Matthew 18:17a)

If he/she refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church

Use the resources of the Church. This might be the time to bring in the Conflict Transformation Team or to be in contact with the District Superintendent.

If not resolved by outside help from the wider church...

5. Step Five: Shake the Dust (Matthew 18:17b)

... and if he/she refuses to listen even to the church, treat him/her as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

There are some issues that cannot be resolved.

The church should remember its mission.

Let go of the anger and disappointment at the unresolved issues and move on with your ministry.

6. Step Six: God is There (Matthew 18:20)

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Remember God’s powerful promise to be with us in the midst of our problems.