Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. January 27, 2019

**Can We All Just Get Along?**

Matthew 18:15-20

**Key Truth:** Unresolved conflict in the family of God is unhealthy and causes spiritual stagnation in the life of the believer and in the body of Christ.

1. In conflict the goal is always reconciliation.

2. We need to seek to resolve the conflict in private.

 A. How to confront someone who has sinned against you:

 1. Don’t make assumptions seek clarification by asking

 questions.

 2. Speak for yourself not for the other person.

 3. Address how you feel but don’t let your feelings

 overlook the facts.

3. Sometimes involving others is necessary to bring about

 healing.

 A. Do so only if all else fails.

 B. Involving someone else isn’t to get them to take your side

 but to help everyone see things clearly.

4. The local church gets involved as a last resort to render God’s

 judgement on the matter.

 A. Jesus Christ has given the church authority to speak on His

 behalf on spiritual matters.

 B. The church is the visible representation of the Kingdom of

 Heaven.

5. When a disciple refuses to repent of wrongdoing the church

 is to remove that person from its fellowship.

 A. Removing someone from fellowship is not just a

 punishment of the offender but rather protection of the

 flock. 1 Corinthians 5:6

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the gift of the local church. See yourself as an active and important participant in the life of our church. Honor our fellowship by holding each other accountable in love and protecting our unity.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

When it comes to resolving church conflict on a scale of 1 to 10 how good are you in dealing with it? Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-8: Why does Paul react so strongly about the immoral brother in the Corinthian church? What does he tell them to do?

What wrong attitude toward the problem in their church did the Corinthians have? What attitude did Paul think they should have had?

Who does Paul instruct to take action against this unrepentant man? What does this tell us about the responsibility of individual church members?

Read Matthew 18:21-35: What does this parable say about how God forgives us? How should we respond when someone ask us for forgiveness?

Why is it important that the individual members of our church be invested in the teaching, discipline, and worship that takes place at our church? How can you deepen your investment?

Read Galatians 2:11-16: If we fail to hold church members accountable for their actions, what do we risk happening in our church? What does it say to the outside world?