



This is the third in our short Spring Series on Stress. What has “spoken to you” thus far in the series? Is it a certain text or Biblical Figure? Is it some concept to ponder? And what have you put into practice as a result?

1. Has the relational conflict in your life stayed about the same during COVID-19 or has it decreased or increased? In what area? Or with what individual(s)?
2. I talked about four basic Corporate Management Styles relating to conflict: Sharks, Teddy Bears, Turtles, and Owls. Which do you most resemble most of the time? And what style does the person or people you most often find yourself in conflict with represent?
3. *Read Matthew 18:15-20.* What are the four steps of Conflict Resolution that Jesus teaches here? Is there an order to them or can this model be entered into anywhere along the way? And who, according to Jesus, is to initiate the process and each step?
4. I mentioned in my message that “some confrontation is more sinful than the sin it confronts.” How does Jesus, with his steps, encourage the goal of restoration of the relationship instead of simply revenge?
5. Does step four of this process seem harsh to you or appropriate and necessary? Explain your answer.

I tried in my sermon to share some positives that can come from censure. Discuss possible positives. And then I talked about what the phrase, “let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector” might mean. How did Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors--- like Matthew (the author of this Gospel) and Zacchaeus?

6. What do you think verses 18-20 add to the discussion? Perhaps read them in *The Message* version. Why did Jesus include them?
7. What situation or person (people) came to mind as Jesus’ Words were read and discussed? What might your first step be this coming week? And how can we pray for each other in our group regarding reconciliation efforts? Share needs and specific opportunities.

