



A Conversation or Confrontation
Romans 12:18-21; Matthew 18:15; 5:23-24
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Idea: You can have peace **about** the relationship without peace **in** the relationship.

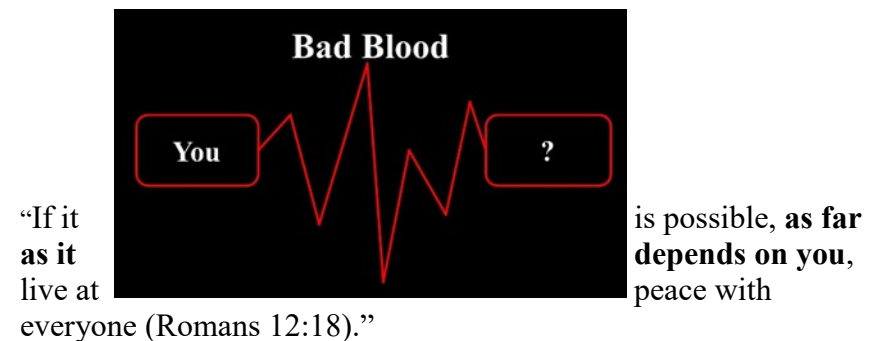
The Bottom Line: Jesus says if you have bad blood with another person, you should go and have a conversation with him or her.

Introduction:

The Best of Enemies by Osha Gray Davidson.



None of us want bad blood, but all of us have so



You can have peace **about** the relationship even without peace **in** the relationship.

The first week, we talked about how the path to **peace** is paved with

empathy. In a difficult relationship, **empathy** can be the key to opening a dialogue that **leads to** a healthy relationship.

Forgiveness is the vehicle to move you down the path. **Forgive** the debt. Take the **first** step.

The problem:

Mr. Ellis and Ms. Atwater were forced by court order to take the first step. The problem is you and I are usually not forced to sit down with the one with whom we have bad blood. Today, we're going to look at what Jesus says about conflict. As usual, it's simple but not easy.

“If your brother **sins** against you, **go** and show him his fault, **just between the two of you** (Matthew 18:15).”

Today, we're going to look at Jesus' answer to three questions:

1. **Why** should you go?
2. **When** should you go?
3. **How** should you go?

Truth:

In Matthew 18 and Matthew 5, Jesus talks about restoring the bad-blood relationships in our lives. In Matthew 18, he says, if someone has sinned against you, go. In Mathew 5, he says something very similar.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift **at the altar** ... (Matthew 5:23-24).”

In order to worship and connect with God people had to make things right with God.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there **remember** that your brother has something **against you**, **leave** your gift there in front of the altar ... (Matthew 5:23-24).”

Worship is important, but to God reconciliation with others is more important.

Before making things right with God, make things right with others.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go** ... (Matthew 5:23-24).”

It will take time, but it will take way longer if you wait.

Go immediately. Keep short accounts.

Go directly. Keep it between the two of you.

Go humbly. Keep in mind that you might not be right.

Conclusion:

If you have bad blood, don't wait another minute. Don't trick yourself into thinking that God is okay with your bad blood. He's not. HE wants you to do all you can do to bring peace.

Before making things right with God, make things right with others as far as it depends on you. Making peace with others clears the path to making peace with God.

Can you imagine how God feels about this when he prioritizes peace with others ahead of His own worship?

Jesus says if you have bad blood with another person, you should go and have a conversation with him or her.

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ **Memorize: Romans 18:15.**
- ☐ **With whom do you need to have a conversation?**
- ☐ **Repent: Take responsibility, make no excuses, and lay out a plan.**
- ☐ **Join us for Bad Blood Part 4: Shaking the Dust Off.**

When:

If you've been wronged or if you've wronged someone, Jesus' command is the same: **Go**. If you're a follower of Jesus, this is not an option.

When you've been wronged, **take the first step**.

When you've wronged, **take the first step**.

Most of you don't need to go to a counselor; you don't need to bring it up with your small group; you don't need to share it as a prayer request; you just need to Go!

You don't even need to sort out who's right or wrong. Just go.

You don't need to assess blame. Just go.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and **be reconciled** to your brother (Matthew 5:23-24)."

To be reconciled is to make peace.

How:

Make it right **by confessing** your wrong. **Repent**.

When you've been hurt, take the first step: **forgive**.

When you've hurt, take the first step: **repent**.

Repent:

- **Take full responsibility** for your wrong.
- **Make no excuses** for your behavior.
- **Lay out a plan** for your change.

"First go and be reconciled to your brother; then **come** and **offer** your gift (Matthew 5:24)."

Application:

Reconciliation requires turning a confrontation into a **conversation**.

It isn't easy, but it's necessary, and it's worth it.

It will cost you, but it will cost you more if you don't.