

## **How To Win A Brother Over**

This is based on Jesus' command to go to those who have offended you and do it the right way with the right motive!

Matthew 18:15 (ESV) - "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Psalms 55:12-14 (ESV)

12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him.

13 But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.

14 We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.

### **I. Mandate for Reconciliation**

Matthew 5:24 (ESV) - leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:15 (ESV) - "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

James 3:8 (ESV) - but NO HUMAN BEING can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Pastor Mike Mille' - "If you rehearse a hurt, it becomes a curse!"

### **II. Test of Spirituality**

Galatians 6:1 (ESV) - 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.

Firstly... when we go to help restore someone who has sinned...

You better make sure that the sin they are involved in will not be a temptation to you also!

Secondly... When that transgression is against us...

Our natural man doesn't want reconciliation...

It wants revenge!

God is warning us about having a NATURAL reaction in the FLESH...

Instead of a HOLY SPIRIT LED reaction!

Galatians 5:25 (ESV) - If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

### **III. Steps For Reconciliation:**

**Step One:** Pray and ask the Lord if this is a legitimate offense against you.

Ask the Lord and yourself these questions:

- 1. Is what they did actually a sin or just something that got on your nerves?*
- 2. Does what they did violate the Word of God or just your opinion?*
- 3. Have you sought healing from the Holy Spirit or are you just bent on holding a grudge?*
- 4. Do you have their best interest at heart or just yours?*
- 5. Are you willing to repent of holding a grudge and release the offender even if they never repent?*
- 6. Are you willing to admit that you may have been wrong in your own perception of the alleged offender's actions and repent?*
- 7. Ask the Lord if there is anything you can learn from this experience to strengthen your own walk with God.*

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Firstly... This step would not apply to a situation where there would be danger or if a crime like assault or rape or some crime that should be reported to the police is involved.

Secondly... If it involves Church leadership is found to be in immorality of some kind including improper communications or innuendoes, flirting or even some kind of indecent proposition...

Also, things like drunkenness, illegal drug use, unjustified violence, dishonest in financial matters, etc.

If it's sin, it must be properly dealt with.

1 Timothy 5:19-22

19 Do not admit (receive) a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

**Step Two:** Remember that "in going", the goal is not to rehearse the offense, but to restore the offender to fellowship with you and the Body of Christ.

**Step Three:** Get Braced! Ask, "Is there anything that I have done to offend you?" (You may have offended them and not know it)

*1. Be careful not to get into reaction.*

*2. Remember that going to an offender in pride will set off a reaction, but going Privately in humility will set up restoration.*

*3. For clarity, repeat back to them what they say the offense is.*

*4. Be willing to repent and seek forgiveness for your offending them even if it's just their own perception.*

*5. Explain your perspective and true motive for coming to them, not to accuse or to justify yourself, but to make peace if possible. (They may not even be aware that they have offended you)*

Romans 12:18 (ESV) - If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

*6. If they will allow it and you can do it without injuring them, explain what you were offended over.*

*7. Let them get clarity and respond. (It could just be a misunderstanding or on either of your part)*

*8. After you listen to their response, be willing to extend as much grace to them as you would like to have extended to you.*

*9. Pray together if possible.*

**Step Four:** If no response, get one or two other God-fearing people involved.

Matthew 18:16 (ESV) - But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

**Step Five:** If no response, get the Church leadership involved.

Matthew 18:17a (ESV)- If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

**Step Six:** If still no response, get Treat them like a lost person. (Back off and pray for them to come to repentance)

Matthew 18:17b (ESV) - And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

#### **IV. Healing Your Wounds**

Proverbs 27:6a (ESV) - "Faithful are the wounds of a friend"

## **V. Discover Your Motives**

Romans 12:21 (ESV) - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **VI. Ministry of Reconciliation**

II Corinthians 5:18-19 (ESV)

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (ESV)

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—  
10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

Galatians 6:1 (ESV) - Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.