

Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Just Between the Two of You

7.1 Key Principle: Constructive correction is a sign of genuine love.

7.2 God calls us to lovingly **correct** one another.

*Matt 18:15*¹⁵ *If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*

7.3 Correcting means more than **confronting**.

*Matt 18:12 (see also Matt 18:21-35; Gal 6:1)*¹² *What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?*

7.4 Sooner or later, talk **face-to-face**.

Gen 50:15-21 (see also Gen 32-33; 2 Sam 14:24; Matt 5:23-24) *When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

7.5 Go when someone's sins are too **serious** to overlook.

- Is it dishonoring God?
- Is it damaging your relationship?
- Is it hurting others (or you)?
- Is it hurting the offender?

Special Considerations

- First, get the log out of your own eye.
- Approach non-Christians gently.
- Respect those in authority.
- Deal cautiously with abuse.
- Go tentatively...go repeatedly