

Dealing with an Offense

Introduction 1 Kings 3:16-28

Opening Illustration –

1. Seek Peace
 - a. Don't be easily offended. Proverbs 19:11; Ecclesiastes 7:21-22
 - b. Be quick to forgive. Luke 17:3-4; Mark 11:25
 - c. Aid others in overcoming offenses. Galatians 6:1-3
 - d. Don't seek revenge. Leviticus 19:18; 1 Peter 2:23; Proverbs 15:1
 - e. Government. Romans 13:4
2. The Process Matthew 18:15–17
 - a. Address the situation in private.
 - i. The best way to clear up miscommunication.
 - ii. The best way to win over an erring brother. James 5:19-20
 - iii. **BEN FRANKLIN:** Politics is the art of the possible. What did you get by opposing the motion? It was carried with or without you; all you did was make enemies. And-- and make yourself feel better, of course.
JOHN ADAMS: Do you not believe in saying what you think?
FRANKLIN: No, I'm very much against it. Thinking aloud is responsible for much of mankind's misery. Saint Thomas à Becket might have lived to a ripe, old age if he'd... hm. [*smiles, nods, chuckling wryly; pause; takes a breath*] You insulted Mr. Dickinson. [*pause*] You insulted him in public.
ADAMS: Would you have me insult him in private?
FRANKLIN: It's perfectly acceptable to insult someone in private. Sometimes they might even thank you for it afterwards, but when you do it in public, they *tend* to think you are serious.
 - b. Address the situation in a small group.
 - c. Address the situation before the proper authority.
 - d. Expel the person from the assembly.
3. The Rules
 - a. Don't lie. Exodus 23:1-3
 - b. Listen to both sides before making a judgment. John 7:51; Proverbs 18:17
 - c. Don't take one person's word against another. Deuteronomy 19:15; 1 Timothy 5:19
 - d. Don't be biased or show favoritism. Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:17
 - e. Punish false witnesses. Deuteronomy 19:15-21

Closing Illustration –

Closing Thought