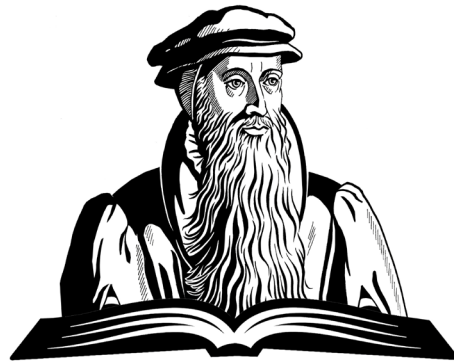




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*Lecture 1*  
**Introduction**

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**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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# Study Guide

for

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CHURCH

### Video Lecture Series

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

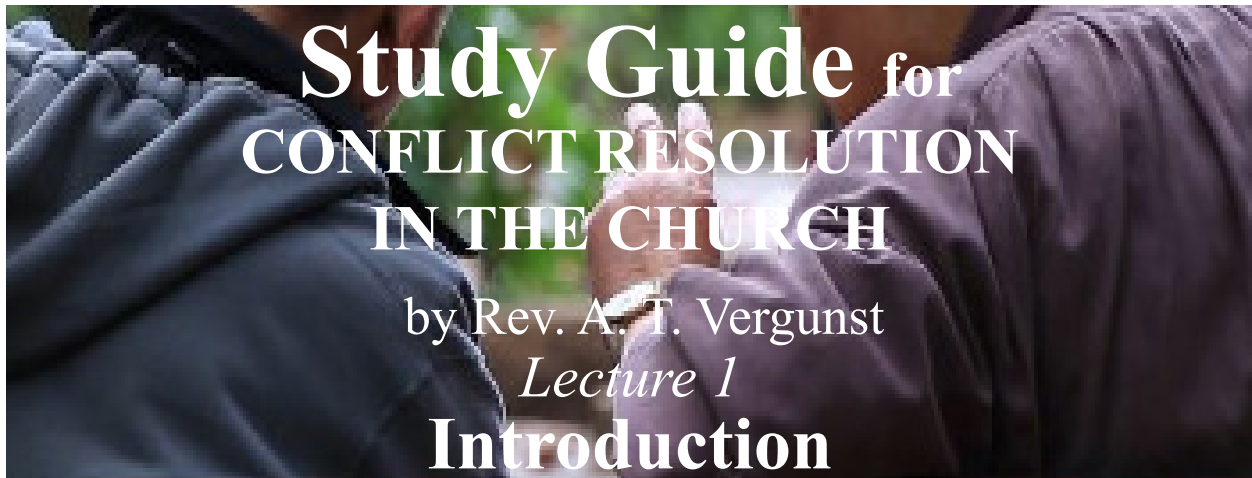
1. Introduction

2. Jesus' Instructions for Confrontation

3. Repentance, Confession, & Forgiveness

4. Surrounded with Prayer and Love

5. Excommunication and Restoration



# Study Guide for CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CHURCH

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

*Lecture 1*

## Introduction

### Scripture Texts

*“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”—Matthew 18, verse 15*

*“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”—Luke 17, verse 3*

*“Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.”—Leviticus 19, verse 17*

### Key Points

1. This series focuses on peace and unity in the church. These are critical to the kingdom of God.
  - a. Division and disunity have always been Satan’s chief weapons against the church.
  - b. This series looks at maintaining and restoring unity and preventing disunity.
2. As long as we are in this world, there will always be issues that cause strain among believers.
3. Sin can lead to ugly divisions.
4. This series looks at how to resist Satan’s strategies to divide and conquer the church.
  - a. Maintain purity in doctrine and life.
  - b. Maintain unity among the brethren.
  - c. The Lord Jesus’ prayer for unity and purity in John chapter 17.
5. Several examples from Scripture about the importance of unity and peace in the church.
6. In this study, we will sit at Jesus’ feet to consider his teaching in Matthew 18, verses 15 to 35.
7. If we do not deal faithfully with sin and conflict in the church, we will lose our main ally, the Holy Spirit.

8. Departing from God’s ways always begins with tolerating sin, and it will lead to more sin.

9. Principles to guide us through these lectures:

- a. The Lord commands us to confront our brother if he sins against us in any manner.
- b. Loving confrontation, according to Jesus’ instructions, will bless all parties involved.

**Review Questions**

1. Please name some ways that divisions and disunity in the church harm the advancement of the kingdom of God worldwide.

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2. What is said to be Satan’s chief weapon against the kingdom of God in this world?

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3. What is the two-pronged strategy of the Lord to resist Satan’s attempts to divide the church?

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4. How does this two-pronged strategy appear in the prayer of the Lord Jesus in John chapter 17? What does that tell us?

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5. After Pentecost, there are many New Testament passages exhorting the church to maintain unity and peace. Please list out some of those passages here.

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6. When his disciples began competing for position and power, what did Jesus teach them about serving and loving one another? What do we learn from this?

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7. When there is division and strife in the church, how does that affect the Holy Spirit?

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8. Rev. Vergunst says that departing from God's ways always begins with tolerating one small sin. What warning can we derive from this?

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9. What examples do we find in the Bible of God's way of solving sin problems by practicing loving, gentle, but clear confrontation?

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10. What are the two principles that Rev. Vergunst gave us to guide us through the coming lectures?

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**Personal Applications**

1. How do you normally resolve sin problems in yourself or in dealing with others? Do you follow the instructions given in the Bible for confronting an offense against you?

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2. In this introduction, we learned how division in the church and disunity between Christians can cause much harm to the kingdom of God on earth. We also learned how the devil is always looking for ways to attack God's people. Does this inspire you to pray more fervently for the church of Jesus Christ and for yourself?

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