

Study Guide

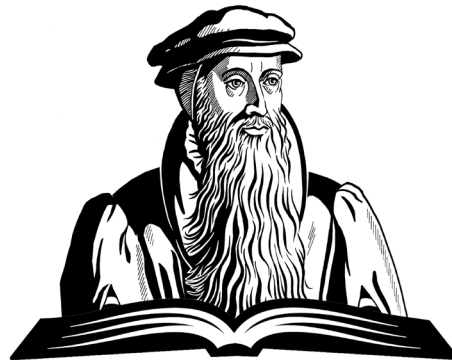
for

CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CHURCH

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture 2

Jesus' Instructions on Confrontation



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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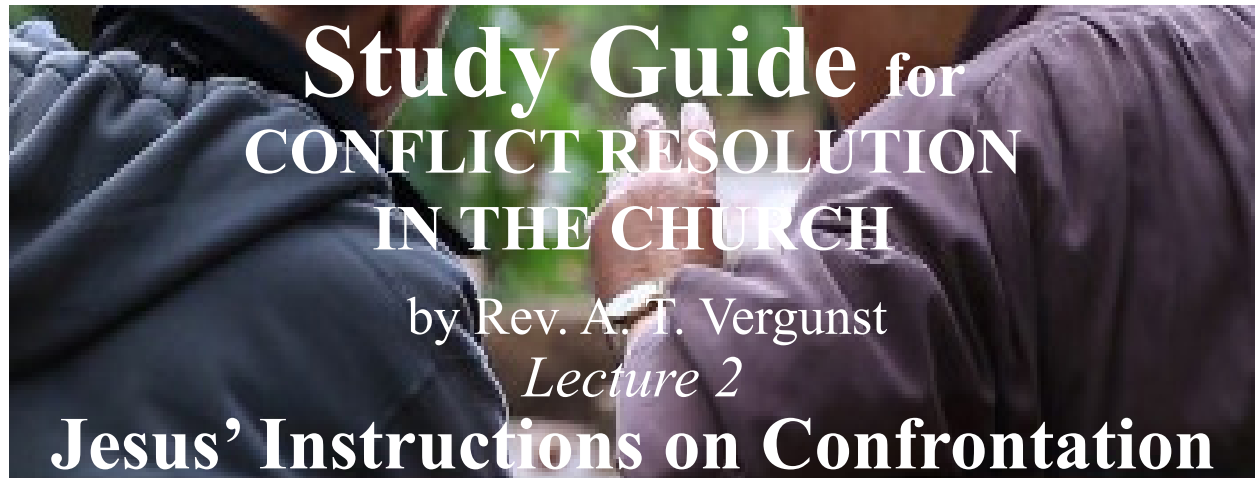
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Video Lecture Series

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. Introduction
2. Jesus' Instructions on Confrontation
3. Repentance, Confession & Forgiveness
4. Surrounded with Prayer and Love
5. Excommunication and Restoration



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

Key Points

1. The Scriptures are in unity on this subject. Sin needs confrontation.
 - a. In Matthew 18:15, the Lord has outlined how to do this.
2. Four levels in dealing with sin between Christians.
 - a. First, examine yourself.
 - b. Secondly, deal with it privately between you and the other person.
 - c. If unsuccessful, then bring a third person in as a witness.
 - d. If still unsuccessful, then the whole church should get involved.
3. The first level of dealing with sin is a personal examination of self.
 - a. We must pray God to help us see ourselves in the light of God’s Word.
 - b. Consider the other person to provoke them to love and to good works (Hebrews 10:24).
4. The second level is a private confrontation between you and the other person.
 - a. The offended party should confront the offending party personally and privately.
 - b. Tell them about the trespass they committed against you, directly or indirectly.
 - c. Make sure it is an actual trespass, not just an attitude or based on feelings.
 - c. Consider the three questions to ask yourself before confronting the offending party.

d. Confrontation should be done with the right attitude and a spirit of meekness.

5. Willful trespasses should be dealt with locally.

Review Questions

1. What are the four levels of dealing with sin in the local church family?

2. What is the first step necessary before confronting the sin of another? How is this done?

3. What is the second step in dealing with another person's sin or trespass? Should it be done privately? Why?

4. When we go to the offending party to confront them, what should our attitude be? Should we have an attitude of "I am better than you"? Why?

5. What did Jesus mean when he told us to first remove the beam from our own eye before we try to remove a mote (a splinter) from our brother's eye?

6. How can you ensure that the offense is an actual trespass and not just a feeling or an attitude?

7. What is a spirit of meekness? Why is it essential for effectively confronting a fellow believer on their sin?

8. When you are offended by a brother, why should you go directly to them privately? Is it okay to talk to others about it before giving that person a chance to repent? Explain your answer.

9. What three things should you ask yourself before confronting a brother or sister who offended you?

10. Does every little offense need to be confronted? Is it sometimes better to cover the matter with love? What if the trespass violates God's moral law?

Personal Applications

1. Please find Biblical examples of believers being confronted for their sins. Did they repent? How did the Lord use each confrontation for the benefit of the sinning believer? Have you ever been confronted for your trespasses in a biblical way? How did it affect you?

2. Confrontation can be difficult, but Rev. Vergunst advises us to spend time with our fellow Christians in our local church and try to develop trusting relationships. How will having a good relationship help you if you must confront the other person in love?
