Love & War

The Art of War

Jim Gerlach   jim@ovbc.net   3.2.14   9:30 & 10:50 a.m.

- Sin _____ us from God and from each other.

- Matthew 18 is for dealing with _____, not _____ between _____.

The Jesus Way to Go to War . . .

1. **Forgive the offender, and do your best to *let it _____* .**
   Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
                                            Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14-15

   - **The vast majority of your hurts should be forgiven and _____.**

     A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11

2. ***If you can't let it go*, talk _____ the person (privately) instead of talking _____ them.**
   Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.
                                                                Proverbs 26:20

- **Seek _____, not vindication.**

  [15] *"If your **brother or sister sins** go and **point out their fault**, just between the two of you. If they **listen** to you, you have won them over."* Matthew 18:15

3. ***If you can't work it out*, ask 1-2 others you both trust to "_____."**
   [16] *"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that '**every matter** may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"* Matthew. 18:16

   - **Find people who will listen to _____ sides of the story.**

     In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines. Proverbs 18:17

4. **If all else fails, break _____.**
   If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Matthew 18:17

   If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

   "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
                                                                Matthew 18:20

Next Steps: *Connecting People to the Life-Changing Love of Christ*

☐ Memorize Colossians 3:13

☐ Determine to handle conflicts in a biblical, Christ honoring way.

☐ Bring a friend to church next Sunday.

**Save the Date – Easter Sunday April 20 (Three Morning Services)