



Bad Blood, Pt. 3: A Confrontation or a Conversation

When there's bad blood in a relationship, the easiest thing to do is to let resentment and bitterness grow without addressing the issue. That's the path of least resistance. It doesn't make the conflict go away, but it avoids the relational mess of having to deal with the other person.

Jesus calls his followers to a higher standard. He says that if we have a problem with another person, we should go and have a conversation with him or her. But why should you go, when should you go, and how should you go?

Bottom Line: Don't fool yourself into thinking that God is okay with your bad blood. He wants you to do all you can do to bring peace.

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1–10, with 1 being “extremely uncomfortable” and 10 being “extremely comfortable,” how do you feel about confronting someone who has wronged you? How do you think that tendency has affected the quality of your relationships?
2. What are some reasons people avoid confrontation? Are most of those reasons motivated by self-interest or genuine concern for the other person?
3. **Read Matthew 5:23–24.** Has your bad blood with another person ever affected the quality of your relationship with God? If so, what did you do?
4. **Read Matthew 18:15.** When you think about following Jesus' advice in this verse, what is your gut reaction? What do you find challenging about what Jesus says?
5. Is there someone to whom you need to repent because of the hurt you've caused him or her? If so, how can you begin this week to take full responsibility, make no excuses, and lay out a plan for personal change.
6. Is there someone with whom you need to have a conversation? What steps can you take this week toward having that conversation? How can this group support you?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?