**Reflections- 09-10-17**

Conflict, Communication, Confrontation

*“How do you handle conflict?”*

Matthew 18:15-20

1. This text gives one the impression that conflict was a part of the early church. Does it surprise you that Jesus had to address this? If not, how have you seen conflict play itself out in the church?
2. Pastor Glen made the point that because we are “all” sinners that conflict is inevitable. What Jesus addresses is how one can deal with conflict in a healthy manner by going directly to the source of the one who sinned against you. Do you think this is the typical pattern of conflict resolution in the church? Why or why not?
3. Jesus in a sense said, “Be the solution” … be the one who goes and confronts the person who sinned against you. How important is it that we act in this way?
4. Pastor Glen talked about several dysfunctional ways of dealing with conflict. Do nothing. Triangulate (share with outsiders the issue without talking directly to the one who sinned). Or we ask someone to fix the problem for us. Why are these not healthy ways to deal with conflict? Have you ever done this?
5. Would you agree with the psychologist Scott Peck who says, “The central defect of evil is not the sin but the refusal to acknowledge it”? why or why not?

**Matthew 18:15-20**

15 ‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.18Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’