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CONTEXT:

- Just discussed importance of winning the lost (the 99 sheep parable)
- And the need to protect the weak (millstone warning)
- And how to watch your own sinful temptations (“pluck out your eye”)
- With the picture of souls on our mind, we move to how to deal with offenses.

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**Not merely sin recognition,
this is conflict resolution**

**THIS IS FAMILY
CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; **for we are brethren.** ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.” (Gen 13:8–9)

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You must work it out: brooding, bitterness, and gossip are sinful.

LEVITICUS 19:16-18

¹⁶ You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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The problem with anger and hurt is that it can burn without a clear reason

⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, **“Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?”**
(Gen 4:5–6)

Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, **“What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?”**
(1 Sam 20:1)

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You are hurt, but their soul is the one that you must think of

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might **win** the more;
(1 Co 9:19)

But He was wounded **for our transgressions,**
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
(Isa 53:5)

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Others are involved only when we believe the case is true and impartiality will bear it out

I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

(1 Cor 6:5)

Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.
⁷ The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. (Deut 17:6–7)

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The goal, even in the most dire of circumstances, is to appeal to their minds and hearts for salvation

²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction;
²³ but others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire**, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (Jude 22–23)

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, **note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.** ¹⁵ Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
(2 Thess 3:14–15)