

Pastor's Pen September 2007

When You Sin Against Your Brother, You Sin Against Christ  
(I Cor. 8:12)

It is not possible to be right with God and at the same time be doing wrong to one of his children. Our vertical relationship with our God is very much affected by our horizontal relationships with our brothers. In fact it is so important that the Lord said to leave off trying to worship the Lord and go first repair conflicts with others and then return to worship the Lord. (Matthew 5:24) In some cases, because the other party is unwilling it is impossible to be reconciled, but never let the continuing conflict be because of us. (*Rom. 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*)

The Bible further says that if we're walking in righteousness with the Savior, we will have fellowship one with another. It is not possible for two believers to be close to the Savior and not close to each other. (I John 1:7) When there is a conflict between two believers it means that one or both of them are not walking in the light as they should be. Let us never deceive ourselves into thinking that we're right with God when we're wrong with others.

Bob Williams  
Pastor  
Prairie Baptist Church – Noblesville, IN