

- Preached a couple of weeks before the General Assembly debated people in same sex relationships entering the ministry

## Chat with the Children: Arguments

- What happens when there is an argument in the playground?
    - shouting match
    - fight
    - silent treatment
    - gossip/slander/rumours...
    - lego being thrown out my window by my mum!! (image)
  - Two applications:
    - one about how we sort out personal disputes...
    - one about how we sort out church disputes... leading into sermon material
  - *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over..." (Matthew 18:15ff)*
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## Introduction

- *Set context of preaching this.....*
- And context leading up to Jerusalem Council:
  - issue of Jewish laws, especially circumcision
  - crisis or choice point... (path split)

## Issues need to be addressed

- *(Keep path split image up)*
- Festering, ignoring in the hope of peace in the long run is bad
  - can't "live and let live" if the gospel is at stake

## The Gospel needs to be central

- Missional priority
  - context of our own debate, fear this is where we haven't yet got the balance right
  - declaring not sin that which Scripture says is sin is ultimately a gospel issue

## People need to be valued

- Way we speak of people, speak to people, *listen to people (v.12)*
- Emotional maturity
- Even way final message was communicated, who was sent...

## Conclusion

- Issue needs to be addressed
- The Gospel needs to be central
- People need to be valued
- Practicalities:
  - there may be people who leave - how will we value, respect, listen to them?
  - in the turbulence of public pressure (being described as homophobic etc) and personal pressure (eg changes in the congregation here in Fintry), how will we *keep the gospel central*, and *value people* (especially the ones we disagree with, or feel hurt by)
  - this will drag on - barrier act, etc. Personally believe at present able to stay, at least for time being.