

Three steps to repairing a broken relationship

written by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor |

Parents try to teach their kids all sorts of things and for our family the most difficult lesson was not to fight, or at least to do it outside. There seems to be some instinct inside children to defend their turf at all costs, for instance a kid fighting to keep a younger brother from playing with a toy he isn't using anyway.

There are lots of places in the Bible where the Lord gives instructions on how to share, be flexible, turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile, but today's Gospel is the only passage that immediately comes to mind where we are taught how to defend our own rights and by extension, the rights of others.

I take that to mean that while Jesus doesn't intend his followers to be doormats, he is more worried about us becoming obsessed with the protection of our own rights and forgetting about others.

As we know, playground fights usually are not all that constructive. Jesus instructs his followers that if they are going to defend their own rights, they need to do it constructively. "If your brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out his fault to him, but keep it between you and him. If he listens to you, you have won your brother."