

RESOLVING CONFLICT

Strengthening Your Relationships – Part 3

September 21, 2014

Romans 12:17-18 (NLT) *“Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.”¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”*

If you’re in disharmony and conflict with other people, then you’re in disharmony and conflict with God.

BIBLICAL STEPS TO RESOLVING CONFLICT

1. Take the **INITIATIVE**.

- Deal with your **FEAR** of a conflict resolution meeting.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”*

- Deal with how to **SET UP** the meeting.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT) *“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”*

- Deal with **WHAT TO DO** in the meeting.

2. Confess **YOUR PART** of the conflict.

Matthew 7:3 & 5 (NCV) *“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye?⁵ You hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”*

3. **LISTEN** for the hurt.

James 1:19 (NLT) *“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”*

4. Consider their **PERSPECTIVE**.

Philippians 3:3b-5 (NIV) *“...In humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”*

Psalms 139:3 (CEV) *“Lord... You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.”*

5. Tell the truth **TACTFULLY**.

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) *“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

Ephesians 4:29a (GNT) *“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed...”*

6. Fix the **PROBLEM**, not the **BLAME**.

Colossians 3:8 (NIV) *“But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”*

7. Focus on **RECONCILIATION**, not **RESOLUTION**

“Reconciliation” seeks to reestablish the relationship

“Resolution” seeks to resolve every issue

You are most like Christ when you serve as an agent of reconciliation.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV) *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus.”*