

Conflict Resolution and Forgiveness

Questions for Discussion

- How was conflict handled in your family while you were growing up at home? As you look back, what made it positive or negative to you?
- Have you ever confronted a fellow believer about something specific in his or her life? How did you go about it and how did the person respond? Would you do anything different next time?
- Read the chart in this packet titled: “Typical views in response to conflict” and share with the group the response (s) that you typically turn to and why you turn to this response.

For Further Study

Look up each of these passages about forgiveness and conflict resolution. Then write out principles that you get from each passage.

Passage	Principles about forgiveness and conflict resolution
Matthew 18:21-35	
Colossians 3:13	
Ephesians 4:29-32	
Luke 17:3-4	

Matthew 18:15-20	
Matthew 5:23-24	
Passages to read about rebuking/ confronting	Acts 6:1-6, Acts 15, Galatians 2:11-21

Typical Views and Responses to Conflict

Typical View of Conflict	Typical Response	Typical Results
Conflict is wrong	Refuse to deal with problem AVOID	Problems keep growing
Conflict is dangerous	Always give in ACCOMADATE	Resentment can build
Conflict is neutral	Split the difference COMPROMISE	Moral issues can be ignored
Conflict is a contest	Win at all costs COMPETE	Relationships can be damaged
Conflict is an opportunity	Meet the interests of others COLLOBORATE	Relationship healed and issues resolved

Biblical Principles of for Handling Conflict

1. Overlook minor offenses and annoyances that don't matter that much. Prov. 19:11
 2. Evaluate your own life and pray for correct perspective Mat. 7:2-5
 3. Talk in private to gain understanding and resolve issues
 4. Take one or two others along to assist in reconciliation or resolution
 5. Involve the community of believers
- } Progression: Mt. 18:15-17

Guidelines for Dealing with Conflict

1. Reconcile then Resolve
 - Restore the relationship first and then resolve the problem
2. Win by losing
 - Seek unity rather than being right all the time
 - Harmony is more important than winning the argument

Our insistence in proving we are right is nearly always an indication that there has been some point of disobedience. -Oswald Chambers

3. See the other person's reality
 - Put yourself in the other person's shoes
4. Don't make it personal
 - Attack the problem, not the person
5. Ask don't tell
 - Pursue understanding rather than immediate solutions.
6. Don't have a disagreeable spirit
 - It is ok to disagree but don't be disagreeable
7. Use time outs if necessary
 - Avoid intense emotions that are destructive
8. Be a place of grace
 - If you want honesty, you must provide safety
 - Create an environment of grace
9. Take Turns
 - Deal with one offense at a time

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Colossians 3:13
Ephesians 4:29-32
Luke 17:3-4
Matthew 18:15-20
Matthew 5:23-24
Mat. 7:2-5

Application Questions

Take some time alone with God and dwell on these questions in response to the above teaching on conflict and forgiveness.

- Is there someone I need to forgive **or** something I need to accept God's forgiveness for?
- Is there anyone I need to confront **or** ask forgiveness from? How and when will I do this?