

Communication & Conflict Resolution

The Bible Way

Premise: Conflict arises in relationship when communication is perverted. Wicked communication produces conflict, but the Bible teaches believers how to handle conflict so that it will produce life and repair relationships both with God and man. Healthy relationships are needed to live life to the full.

Responding to Conflict

Dealing **rightly** with our brothers and sisters – *(Read Aloud Matthew 18:15-20)*

"Moreover if your brother sins against you,

Step 1) go and tell him his fault **between you and him alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Step 2) 16 But if he will not hear, **take with you one or two more**, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

Step 3) 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. **(He/she has chosen their own way and they will continue in that way until they hear the Lord's correction and respond to it by repentance.)**

Go to God in prayer throughout this process.

18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." NKJV

Offenses will come

(Read Aloud Matt 18:6,7; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-5)

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. 3 Take heed to yourselves.

Step 1) If your brother sins against you, rebuke him (GENTLY CORRECT); and

Step 2) if he repents, forgive him.

Step 3) 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." NKJ

**If your brother/sister does not repent
then follow the steps in "Responding to Conflict."**

Consequences to mishandling conflict; we must learn to do it the right way.

First	Separation from God, sin separates us from our Father
Second	Our heart becomes seared toward God (<i>1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15-16</i>)
Third	If you are unresponsive to God's gentle urges to get you going in the right direction your heart will become cold and hard.
Remedy	Draw near to God with a pure/true heart (<i>Hebrews 10:22</i>)

Moving only in God's established Order

When your brother/sister sins, Do Not Judge him/her **go to someone who can help**
(*Matt 7:1-5; Luke 6:37-42*)

The result of judging others

"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. (*Matt. 7: 1 & 2*)

**If I have no power to bring change to the situation, then I don't get involved.
Send the person to someone who has been established to help.**

What happens when I go to someone who has no power to bring change? **We both stumble!**

39 And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? (*Luke 6:39*)

Take heed to yourself... **Make sure you are not the one who is wrong!**

41 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own

eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye. (Luke 6:41-42, NKJV)

Be very careful who you talk to... **Sometimes you need to go straight to the top!**

"Don't give what is holy to unholy people. Don't give pearls to swine! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you. (Matt 7:6, NLT)

Murder Begins in the Heart

(Luke 12:57-59)

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. NKJV

When I talk to the wrong person without a desire to see real, positive, healing change come to the situation, what am I doing?

Gossip, backbiting, causing division, contentions, strife, and rebellion.

Prov 11:13 – A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. NIV

Prov 16:28-30 - A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends. A violent man entices his neighbor and leads him down a path that is not good. He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity; he who purses his lips is bent on evil. NIV

Prov 18:8 - The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts. NIV

Prov 20:19 - A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much. NIV

Prov 26:20-21 - Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. NIV

Ps 41:7-9 All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies."
Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. NIV

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