

Using Biblical Principles to
Manage **Conflict** in Your
Relationships



*Can you think of a time that you
were in conflict with someone
and you were able to
successfully resolve the conflict
or mend the relationship?*

*Can you think of a time that you were in conflict with someone and you were **unable to successfully resolve** the conflict or mend the relationship?*

*Do we, as Christians, have a duty to minimize the **amount** of and **intensity** of conflicts we might have with others?*

Take a look at the following biblical principles that should help us better manage conflict in our relationships...

Biblical Principle #1

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you...

- Matthew 7: 12
 - We teach this principle to children, but do we really follow it ourselves?
 - A lot of conflict could be eliminated if we simply just treated people the way we want to be treated.
- Exodus 20: 13-17
 - The ten commandments underscore how we should treat each other. ***It is when we treat each other in a way that we do not wish to be treated that conflict arises.***

Biblical Principle #2

Love one another, as Jesus Christ has loved you...

- John 13: 34-35
 - If we loved each other like Christ loves us, describe the kind of love we would have towards the people in our lives...
 - Unconditional love
 - Longsuffering
 - We would be there to help others

Biblical Principle #3



Do not judge, or you too will be judged...

- Matthew 7: 1-5
 - When we are in conflict with someone, we are quick to point out how wrong they are.
 - Before we judge them too harshly, we should look at our own actions and what we might have contributed to the conflict and how we might change.
 - Our changing could cause them to re-evaluate their actions and change too. When both sides are working on themselves, conflict can be resolved.

Biblical Principle #4

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you...

- Matthew 18: 15-17
 - Why don't we try very often to solve our conflicts by talking it out with the other person?
 - What kind of experiences have you had when you have put forth the effort to try to talk it out?

Most conflict can be resolved if people just talk to each other...

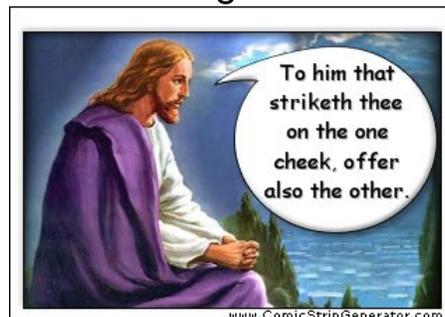


Biblical Principle #5

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn him the other also...

Matthew 5: 38-41

– What message is Christ sending us in this passage?



Biblical Principle #6

- *Know when it's time to leave a relationship behind...*
 - I Samuel 26: 21-25
 - Saul was jealous of David and had been trying to kill him for a period of many years.
 - Notice that David doesn't give Saul another chance to harm him...David goes on his own way. He leaves the relationship behind.
 - Try to fix your relationship first, but we have to learn to distance ourselves when continuing a relationship might be harmful to us.
 - Continuous conflict is not good for us.

Biblical Principle #7

*Try to understand that sometimes people just have a bad understanding. We need to attribute their behavior to the fact that **they don't understand what they are doing** and thus forgive them. Jesus forgave us, as sinners, because we didn't know what we were doing...*

Luke 23: 33-34

- People make mistakes. Hopefully as they mature they will make less mistakes. When you look back, you did some things you regret. You wouldn't do those things now...but you did them then. Allow the people in your life some latitude to make a few mistakes too.
- People in your life may hurt or offend you simply because they haven't reached a place in their life where they have matured yet. Try to help them realize their errors...and then forgive them.

*As Christians, we have a
responsibility to try our best to
resolve conflict...*

Your Homework:

Reach out to someone who you have or
have had conflict with and try your best to
resolve it using biblical principles..