

ROB CONTI – SW019

RESOLVING CONFLICT

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- ▶ Proverbs 28:26; *“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered.”*
 - ▶ Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).
 - ▶ We have a natural bent in our flesh to blame others for the problem.
 - ▶ It’s more important to honor the Lord and Love your neighbor than to be “right”.
 - ▶ Proverbs 21:2 *“Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.”*

1. EXAMINE YOUR HEART BEFORE THE LORD

Matthew 7:1-5

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

- ▶ Examine your attitude. Have you had a critical, negative, or overly sensitive attitude that has led to unnecessary conflict?
- ▶ Examine your words and actions. Have your sinful words and actions contributed to the conflict?
- ▶ Because you are often blind to your own sins, you may need an honest friend who will help you to take an objective look at yourself and face up to your contribution to a conflict.

2. DETERMINE IF IT IS WORTH CONFRONTING

Psalm 19:11 *“Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.”*

- ▶ As a general rule, an offense should be overlooked if you can answer “No” to the following:
 - ▶ Is the offense clear disobedience to God?
 - ▶ Will it permanently damage a relationship?
 - ▶ Is it hurting other people?
 - ▶ Is it hurting the offender him/herself?

IF NO, LET IT GO!

2. DETERMINE IF IT IS WORTH CONFRONTING

- ▶ If "YES":
- ▶ Pray for humility and wisdom
- ▶ Plan your words
- ▶ Anticipate reactions
- ▶ Right time and place.
- ▶ Talk in person
- ▶ Assume the best about the other person.
- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Keep reconciliation and their good as the goal.

3. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF

- ▶ Admit what you did wrong.
- ▶ Apologize for how your choice affected the other person.
- ▶ Unqualified apologies are the only real apologies.
- ▶ Accept any consequences.
- ▶ Ask for forgiveness.

4. ASK FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO SPEAK INTO THE SITUATION

- ▶ Someone that is committed to seeing both parties reconciled.
- ▶ Someone that both parties trust.
- ▶ Don't try to get the person on your "side".

5. THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

- ▶ Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it loving?

Proverbs 3:3 “Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.”

Proverbs 12:18 “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing”

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

5. THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Proverbs 11:13 *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.”*

Proverbs 25:23 *“The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.”*

Proverbs 18:17 *“The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes and examines him.”*

6. LOOK TO JESUS

- ▶ Pursue Christ-like Humility
 - ▶ Philippians 2:1-8
- ▶ Demonstrate Christ-like Love
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- ▶ Show Christ-like forgiveness
 - ▶ Colossians 3:12-13

