

But First...

How to Deal with Conflict

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Managing conflict—it's something that turns even 50-year-olds into 15-year-olds. Learn how to deal with conflict in a way that's mature, healthy, and loving.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. | 1 Corinthians 13, v.11
- Conflict can't be resolved by just pretending that there's peace.
- First step to resolve conflict—make the first move.
- Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that someone has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. | Matthew 5, vv.23-24
- Mature people don't make excuses, don't delay, and don't procrastinate.
- Plan a peace conference—find a time that works for them.
- Pull away to pray. Before you ever talk with them, talk with God first.
- Second step to resolve conflict—start with what's my fault.
- The goal is to fix the problem, not to assign blame.
- Remember that you're on the same team.
- "I'm sorry. I wasn't listening to your perspective. Can you help me understand?"
- Third step to resolve conflict—confess my blind spots.
- You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. | Matthew 7, v.5
- If you don't know what your blind spots are, ask someone close to you.
- Fourth step to resolve conflict—wrap the truth in love.
- Speak the truth in love... | Ephesians 4, v.15
- "There's never a reason to be unkind."
- Fifth step to resolve conflict—focus on reconciliation, not resolution.
- Reconciliation means you re-establish the relationship. (This doesn't apply to abusive relationships.)
- Resolution means you've resolved every disagreement.
- Mature adults know how to walk hand in hand even if they don't see eye to eye.
- Do not repay anyone evil for evil. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. | Romans 12, v.17-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to avoid conflict (and why do you think you do that)? Or are you someone who isn't afraid of conflict?
2. What is a more recent mistake you've made in handling conflict? What's a recent success you've had in handling conflict?
3. What is hardest for you in handling conflict: making the first move, starting with what's your fault, confessing your blind spots, wrapping the truth in love, focusing on reconciliation, or something else?
4. What is something you can focus on doing to improve how you handle your next conflict, or what is a relationship you need to focus on reconciling now?