

Resolving Conflict Biblically

Part Two



7 Steps To Resolving Personal Conflict For Believers

Matthew 18:15-18



Love is the supreme value in the kingdom of God.

- Anger and conflict block out love.
- There is probably no greater challenge to spiritual growth than how you handle anger and conflict.



¹⁵ “Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that ON THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY MATTER MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONFLICT.**

- Conflict is normal; it is a part of human nature. Lack of conflict does not equal maturity.

2. YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

- Why don't we face up to resolving conflict?
 - Pride
 - Fear
 - Stubbornness

3. GO MEANS GO, OR APPROACH.

- Go does not mean:

- Avoid

- Pray

- Think

- Forget

Before going, ask yourself, why am I angry and what do I want?

There are three major reasons that we get angry:

- Hurt
- Frustration
- Fear

4. GO DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON INVOLVED.

- Do not involve **third parties, mediators, or friends.**
- Conflict is **inevitable.**
- Resentment is **optional.**
- Resolution is **up to you.**

5. TALK IN PRIVATE

- Be sensitive.
- Approach the other person as you would like to be approached.

ANGER MYTH:

The best way to handle anger is to ventilate it.

REALITY: Ventilation only reinforces anger.

It is not appreciated by those ventilated on and it accomplishes nothing positive in either person.

6. USE DIRECT COMMUNICATION

- Describe clearly what you observed.
(Example: "You didn't listen to what I said.")
- Explain how it hurt you.
(Example: "My opinion doesn't matter to you.")

- Tell what the consequences have been.
(Example: "I'm feeling quite resentful." or maybe "I feel like smashing you one when you treat me like that.")
- Ask for what change you would like.
Change implies more than simply an apology, although an apology is often a good place to start.

7. AIM AT RECONCILIATION.



- The goal is to restore the relationship.
- The goal is not to prove who was right, not to get back at someone, not to avoid the situation, not to turn away and forget.