

Resolving Conflicts in Daily Life

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1. Be a good listener before you say anything. (James 1:19)

¹⁹ *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear; slow to speak, slow to anger;*

2. Do not single out faults in someone else's life before you deal with your own. (Matthew 7:3-5)

³ *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?* ⁴ *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?* ⁵ *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.*

3. Do not think that you can read the mind of other people and know what their motivation is for doing or saying something. Neither should you form an opinion of someone based on what someone else has told you. It is good to talk to them personally and clarify things. (Matthew 7:1-2)

Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

4. When someone has offended you, you need to go to that person and describe what happened and how it made you feel. Do not express anger! First, go to the person alone to resolve the problem. If that does not work, then take one or two other people with you to talk to him/her. If none of this works, then take the problem before the church leadership and the church. (Matthew 18:15-17)

¹⁵ *If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

REMEMBER WHAT IT SAYS IN PROVERBS 15:1

*A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

5. When you have offended someone, go to that person and ask forgiveness. (Matthew 5:23-24)

²³ *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

6. You must forgive from the heart and not harbor bitterness. (Matthew 18:21-22; Romans 12:17-21; Hebrews 12:14-15)

²¹ *Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil,*

but overcome evil with good.

¹⁵ *See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*

7. Always seek to edify others. Share a verse or some experience from your life that has direct application to their situation. Think of what will encourage them. Point them to a mature believer who can help them. (Romans 14:19)

¹⁹ *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

More suggestions:

- Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

¹⁷ *pray without ceasing,*

- Stay away from foolish people. They will only bring you trouble. (Proverbs 9:7; 12:15)

⁷ *Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse,
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.*

¹⁵ *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man listens to advice.*

- Do not focus on who is right and who is wrong. What matters the most is to resolve the problem for the glory of God. (Colossians 3:12-17)

¹² *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

- Never go to sleep angry. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

²⁶ *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.*

- Always seek peace with others. (Romans 12:18)

¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*