

Resolving Conflict - A Function of Reconciliation

Conflict between humans is a result of the fall (First couple, murder by first child)

BEFORE → (Gen 2:24) - husband and wife were “one flesh” **AFTER** → Blame shifting--struggle for control (Gen 3:16) ...“Your **desire** shall be for your husband, and he shall **rule** over you.” **FIRST KIDS MURDER**

By appealing to Christ as the basis of reconciliation - a God-honoring outcome is possible

- Eph 5:21-23 ESV **submitting** to one another **out of reverence for Christ**. 22 Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as **Christ is the head of the church**, his body, and is himself its Savior.
 - **Out of reverence for Christ.....As to the LORD.....Christ Head of the body (US)**
- **Reconciliation a priority “out of reverence to him”**- Matthew 5:23-24 So if you are **offering your gift** at the altar and there remember that **your brother** has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First** be **reconciled to your brother**, and **then** come and offer your gift.

Wisdom from God’s word guides us toward reconciliation

1) You ONLY have power over your own heart - set your heart to reverence of Christ and Him as Lord

- Rom 12:17-18 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.**
- Pro 17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so **quit** before the quarrel breaks out.

2) You Can Take the High Road

- 1Co 6:7 ESV To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. **Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?**
- Pro 19:11 **Good sense** makes one slow to anger, and it is his **glory to overlook an offense**.
- Prov 17:9 Whoever **covers** an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter **separates** close friends.

3) When you must deal with conflict there is a right way and a wrong way

- **LOOK WITHIN FIRST** Mat 7:5 **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.
- Jas 1:19 let every person be **quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger**;
- **QUICK TO HEAR** Prov 15:31 The **ear that listens to *life-giving reproof*** will dwell among the wise.
- **SLOW TO SPEAK** Prov 15:1 **A soft answer** turns away wrath, but a **harsh word** stirs up anger.
- **SEEK RECONCILIATION - NOT RIGHTNESS** Eph 4:32 ESV Be **kind** to one another, **tenderhearted, forgiving** one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

4) Trust that God is at work in the process

- Prov 20:22 Do not say, ‘I will repay evil’; **wait for the Lord**, and he will deliver you.
- **TRUST ENABLES US TO OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD** Rom 12:17-21 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.” **SLIDE 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.**

Summary - choose to interact with others out of reverence to Christ, with Jesus as Lord and realizing we are all part of the same body...don’t slap yourself in the face.