

How to Resolve Conflict in Relationships

Romans 12:16

Series: Love One Another – Part 7

Introduction

Question: “When was the last time you lost some sleep and what was the issue?”

Answer: Most of the time it will be a _____ issue.

Harmony – *A state of agreement – the combining of differences in such a way that the unified blending of various parts produces a thing of beauty and impact (adapted from Webster).*

◆ How Important Is Living In Harmony?

- Jesus Prayed For It (John 17:20-23)
- Scripture Commands It (Romans 12:16, 14:19, 15:5-6; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-2)
- The Church Practiced It (Acts 2:46, 4:32-35)
- The World Was Transformed By It (Acts 2:47, 6:7)

◆ What Causes Disharmony Or Conflict?

- Growth / Unmet Needs – Acts 6:1-6
- Theological Differences – Acts 15:1-15
- Philosophical Differences – Acts 15:16-41
- Personality Differences – Philippians 4:2-3
- Carnality – 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,3:1-23

◆ How Can We Restore Harmony In Relationships?

1. Refuse to _____ disunity.
“...as far as it depends on you...” Romans 12:18

- Don't Avoid It!
- Don't Procrastinate!
- Don't Delegate It!
- Don't Rationalize It!

2. Embrace _____ as normal and unavoidable.
John 16:33

3. Be the _____ in conflict resolution.

➤ When it is perceived to be **your** fault. Matthew 5:24

➤ When you perceive it to be **their** fault. Matthew 18:15

4. Deal with _____ before you deal with them.
Luke 6:41-42

5. Meet together _____ and outline the issue!

The _____ - Calmly describe what you perceive the other person is doing to cause the issue.

The _____ - Tell how this makes you feel.

The _____ - Tell why this is important to you.

The _____ - What are we going to do to fix it?

- _____ their response and feedback.
- _____ down the desired action to be taken.
- _____ a specific time to revisit the issue.
- _____ by both sides to put the issue in the past once solved.

6. If Resolution Does Not Occur, Follow The Biblical Guidelines Of Matthew 18

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen to even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

Conclusion: “How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.”
Psalm 133:1

“Action Steps”

For personal, family, growth groups, and ministry team use.

1. Is there a relationship in your life that is out of harmony?
2. Why is it so important we guard the unity of Christ’s Body, the church?
What is at stake?
3. Why do you think following God’s pattern of conflict resolution is so difficult for us?
4. What would trusting God in obedience look like in your life in response to this message?

Resource: [Making Peace At Home](#)