

Conflict in the Bible

The devil knows nothing but to rob, steal, kill, and destroy. The enemy doesn't wait around to begin destroying a marriage. He will begin before it even begins. Have you ever had an argument with your fiancée? I bet you have. From the beginning of history man has had conflict. Most of the couples in the Bible had conflict: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, and David and Michal to mention a few. Conflict in our relationships is inevitable, but how we deal with it when it happens should be biblical and different from the way the world handles conflict.

The early church ran into some difficulties because it was growing so rapidly.

Act 6:1 But as the believers [fn] rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. Those who spoke Greek complained against those who spoke Hebrew, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

Act 6:2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. "We apostles should spend our time preaching and teaching the word of God, not administering a food program," they said.

Act 6:3 "Now look around among yourselves, brothers, and select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this business.

Act 6:4 Then we can spend our time in prayer and preaching and teaching the word."

Act 6:5 This idea pleased the whole group, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (a Gentile convert to the Jewish faith, who had now become a Christian)....

[Act 6:7](#) God's message was preached in ever-widening circles. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

As the church grew there were complaints from the Grecian Jews that the food was being distributed fairly. The leadership called a meeting and came up with a plan. The apostles focused on preaching and teaching, and they chose godly men to minister to the hungry.

In this situation the conflict was a reason for the church to seek the Lord as to how they were conducting themselves, and the conflict resulted in an improvement in the way the church was doing ministry. The possible stumbling block was turned into a stepping stone.

The Two Shall Become One Part 5 - Resolving Conflict

The leaders took blame for doing too much and neglecting what they were called to do, To admit fault requires humility. Husbands need to set the example and be able to confess shortcomings when they have erred.

It is guaranteed we will all make mistake, sin, and fail, the question is how will we handle it when we do. Are we going to yell and scream, point the blame on others, or are we going to admit fault, confess our sin, repent, and ask for forgiveness.

The bible says:

2Cr 5:18 All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him.

All Christians have the ministry of reconciliation. We are to be at peace with God and with one another.

Jesus said:

Mat 5:9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

It is the will of God that we all be peacemakers.

Pro 13:10 Pride leads to arguments; those who take advice are wise.

Pro 28:10 Those who lead the upright into sin will fall into their own trap, but the honest will inherit good things.

Pride is sin, and it will keep people from the ministry of reconciliation.

Other attitudes that keep people apart are anger, strife, criticism, pointing fingers, drunkenness, substance abuse, and pornography. Anything we do in the flesh will bring conflict into our relationships.

1. What seems to cause conflict in your relationship? James 4:1-3

2. What kind of answer turns away anger? Proverbs 15:1

How to Resolve Conflict

The first step in resolving conflict is being willing. We are to be willing even if the person we are in conflict is not.

Pro 16:7 When the ways of people please the LORD, he makes even their enemies live at peace with them.

When we are in conflict and the tempers are flying, we need to take action quickly. The longer we wait to resolve our problems the more difficult it becomes. Ephesians 4:26 - ..."don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

We don't even want to go to sleep in anger.

Mat 5:23 "So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,

Mat 5:24 leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

1. When conflict arises how do you handle it? Do you attack the problem of the person? Do you tend to run from the problem? What are your scriptural remedies?

2. What does it mean to reconcile?

3. Based on Eph 4:26-27, when should conflict be resolved?

4. Why is it important to settle disputes as soon as possible?

5. What are the benefits of making up quickly after a disagreement?

6. Hebrews 3:13 says to exhort one another daily, List some practical ways you can exhort your future spouse or spouse?

Be Honest with One Another

We can resolve conflict by being completely honest with one another. King David was not honest after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. He then tried to dupe Uriah into making him think the child to be born was his. Uriah thwarted David's sinister plan by being a man of integrity.

2Sa 11:11 Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and his officers are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I will never be guilty of acting like that."

David tried to cover his sin:

[Pro 28:13](#) People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.

We need to be honest with one another. There will not be reconciliation if we try to hide our faults and sins from one another.

1. How can a person speak the truth? See Eph 4:15 - Give an example of how this can be accomplished.

Attack the Problem, Not Each Other

When problems arise we need to pray and ask the Lord "What is causing the problem?" We don't want to retreat, we need to attack the problem and be aware not to attack each other.

[Psa 139:23](#) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

[Psa 139:24](#) Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

We need to pray, Lord am I the cause of any conflict in our relationship?, Help me to be a minister of reconciliation." God will show you a way to find a solution. Our homes are to be a sanctuary from the world and a place where we can rest. Who wants to come home to conflict. When we purpose to be a peacemaker the result will be peace.

Spiritual Warfare

We may also experience conflict in our relationship as a result of spiritual attack.

[1Pe 5:8](#) Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

We can find ourselves in arguments in our home when we fail to recognize when it is the enemy who is stirring up a disagreement between us.

There is an unseen battle going on around us everyday of our lives.

[2Cr 10:3](#) We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods.

[2Cr 10:4](#) We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds.

[2Cr 10:5](#) With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.

The Two Shall Become One Part 5 - Resolving Conflict

The battle is won by recognizing the strategy of the enemy. Before we discussed that we need to attack the problem, in this situation we need to realize we are being attacked and we need to have a good defense.

Eph 6:10 A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power.

Eph 6:11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.

Eph 6:12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

Eph 6:13 Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Eph 6:14 Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

Eph 6:15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared.

Eph 6:16 In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.

Eph 6:17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We need to get "spiritually armored up daily". A soldier without armor is a sitting duck.

If the devil can make us believe there is no battle, we have already been conquered.

The Word of God is our offensive piece of armor. We need to use it. This is how Jesus defeated the devil when He was tempted in the wilderness.

One of the most important things you can do with you spouse is to be in the word together daily.

The enemy is trying to undermine the work of the Spirit in our lives even before we get married. This promise of God will encourage us during times of attack.

Isa 54:17 But in that coming day, no weapon turned against you will succeed. And everyone who tells lies in court will be brought to justice. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the LORD; their vindication will come from me. I, the LORD, have spoken!

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This promise doesn't negate our responsibilities as Christians. We must put on the whole armor of God. Resist the devil, draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

1. Ephesians 6:10 - 18 describes the pieces of spiritual armor. List the pieces and their significance.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.