

**“Resolving Conflict – Part One”**

**I. The Perspective**

**A. Wrong Perspective**

1. We’re the \_\_\_\_\_ that struggle like this!
2. It will never \_\_\_\_\_!
3. I can’t \_\_\_\_\_ dealing with a person like this!
4. \_\_\_\_\_ methods don’t work!

**B. Right Perspective**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ experiences conflict!
  - a. Beginning of human conflict (Gen. 3)
  - b. End of conflict is coming (Rev. 21-22)
  - c. In the “Meantime”
    - 1) Adam & Eve – Gen. 3 (hide & hurl)
    - 2) Cain & Abel – Gen. 4 (jealousy & murder) - [See also Saul & David – 1 Sam. 18]
    - 3) Jesus & Religious Rulers (John 2; Mt. 21:12-16)
    - 4) Jesus & Peter (Mt. 26 – “denials”)
    - 5) Early Church Leaders (Acts 15 – doctrine)
    - 6) Paul & Barnabas [John Mark] (Acts 15)
      - a) United on \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 1-31
      - b) Divided on \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 36-41
    - 7) Paul & Peter (Gal. 2)
    - 8) Euodias & Syntyche (Phil. 4)
2. Conflict can be \_\_\_\_\_!
  - a. Adam & Eve
  - b. Saul & David (1 Sam. 24)
  - c. Jesus & Some Religious Rulers (Jn. 20:19 – Nicodemus)
  - d. Jesus & Peter (John 21:15-23)

- e. Early Church Leaders (Acts 15)
  - f. Paul & John Mark (2 Tim. 4:11)
3. Conflict can be \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Strengthen unity & purpose (Acts 15)
  - b. Develop godly character qualities (2 Cor. 12; James 1)
  - c. Handled properly = rewards (Mt. 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2)

## II. The Problem

### A. Internal

1. Sin / flesh (Rom. 7)
2. Pride / Jealousy (James 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-5)
3. Presumption (Prov. 13:10)
4. Anger / Bitterness / Lack of forgiveness (2 Cor. 2; Eph. 4:26-32)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Communication Skills:
  - a. Speaking before gathering \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 18:13; 29:20)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ about what we will say instead of listening (Prov. 18:2)
  - c. Not listening to all sides (Prov. 18:13, 17)
  - d. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ instead of facts (Prov. 13:10; 18:15)
  - e. Not speaking in \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:15)
  - f. Not speaking with \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 15:1; 16:21, 24; 25:15)
  - g. Not speaking to \_\_\_\_\_ God (Ps. 19:14)
  - h. Listening to \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 20:19; 26:20)

### B. External

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:10-17)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ / Anxiety (1 Peter 5)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:26-27)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ / Lack of forgiveness (2 Cor. 2)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Media = fight (rebel; kill) or flight (divorce; take drugs; suicide)
- b. Education system = Humanistic Psychology (“I’m okay, you’re okay”)
- c. Politics = Tolerance
- d. Family / Friends = Poor example

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word “conflict” mean? What are some types of conflicts people experience? Do you ever experience conflicts in your relationships? Have you ever felt like you were the only one who experiences them to the depth that you do?
2. What kind of conflict resolution training have you received in your lifetime? Who trained you? Would you rate this as a strong skill of yours at this time? Do you think most people have strong conflict resolution skills? Why or why not?
3. When did human conflicts begin? What was the cause? When will human conflicts end? Why will they end? What is the common problem in conflicts?
4. What are some typical methods of dealing with conflicts? Are they biblical? What happens when we try to ignore conflicts? What happens when we explode with anger?
5. Can conflicts ever be positive? How might they help us? What specific things can we learn from them?
6. Read through the section on “Poor Communication Skills.” Do you practice any of those? What is your plan to change in those areas? How might you help others grow in those areas?
7. Are we supposed to judge the motives of other people? Do we? How easy is it to do that? If we are concerned about the motives of others what should we do?
8. What other biblical principles can you find as to how you should deal with interpersonal conflicts?
9. What practical things do you do when you experience interpersonal conflicts? Can you find biblical support for them?

[Answers to blanks: **only ones; change; continue; God’s; Everyone; theology; methodology; resolved; positive; Poor; facts; Thinking; opinions; love; gentleness; please; gossip; slander; Satan; Pride; Anger; Bitterness; World**]