



# Resolving Conflict



## How to Resolve Conflict Biblically

### Put a muzzle on your mouth.

"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control."-Proverbs 29:11

"A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."-Proverbs 12:16

"I said, 'I will watch my ways and **keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth**'"-Psalm 39:1

### Get right with God and humble yourself.

"**All of you, clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because, '**God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**'"-1 Peter 5:5

"But **he gives us more grace**. That is why Scripture says: "**God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**" <sup>7</sup> **Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** <sup>8</sup> **Come near to God and he will come near to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**"-James 4:6-10

### Forgive as Christ forgave you and keep forgiving as Christ forgave you until you see them with pity and compassion.

"**So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;** <sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.** <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body; and **be thankful.**"-Colossians 3:12-15

"**forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**"-Ephesians 4:32

### Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

"Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR,** for we are members of one another. **26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.**"-Ephesians 4:25-27

### Let no bitter root grow up.

"**Make every effort to live in peace** with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. **15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.**"-Hebrews 12:14-15

### Do not grieve the Holy Spirit and get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, etc.

"**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**"-Ephesians 4:29-32

### Wisdom of the world is NEVER wisdom from God and therefore only wisdom from God should be followed

"Now if any of you lacks **wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives generously"-James 1:5

"**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.** <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor **bitter envy and selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> But **the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.** <sup>18</sup> **Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.**"-James 3:13-18

**Take the log out of your own eye first.** Lead by example by seeing how fast you can humble yourself and seek forgiveness by stating how you specifically sinned against the other person. Example: "I have sinned against God and you and I wronged you when \_\_\_\_\_ (state specific sin). Will you please forgive me?"

"Why do you look at **the speck** of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to **the plank** in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> **You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brother's eye."-Matthew 7:3-5

### Gently, kindly, and courageously call out sin as sin. Example: "It is sinful to speak in that way. It dishonors God and me."

"Brothers, if **someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.** But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. . . . <sup>7</sup> **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** <sup>8</sup> **The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.** <sup>9</sup> **Let us not become weary in doing good,** for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."-Galatians 6:1-10

"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Wounds from a friend can be trusted."-Proverbs 27:5-6a

### Labor in prayer for each other.

"He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may **stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.**"-Colossians 4:12

### See other true believers as Christ sees them—pure and blameless—glorified in His presence.

"**love keeps no records of wrongs, it always protects, it always trusts, it always hopes, it always perseveres.**"-1 Corinthians 13:7

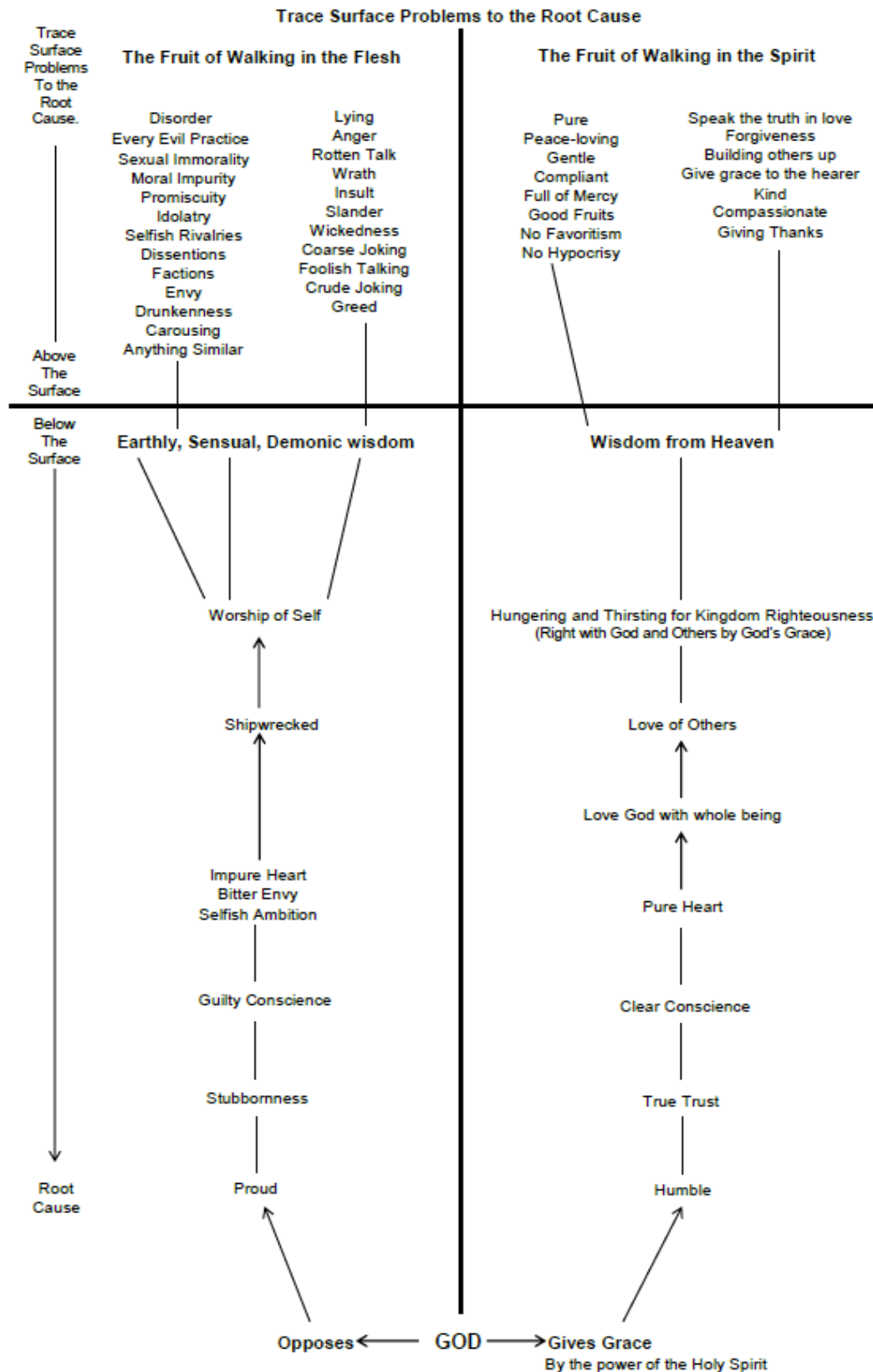
"And we know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him,** who have been called according to his purpose. **29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, **he also glorified.**"-Romans 8:28-30



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**No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.  
Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.”—Jesus, Luke 6:43-44**

Based on: James 3:13-4:10, 1 Timothy 1:5 & 19, Galatians 5:16-26, Matthew 5-7, Matthew 22:36-38, Ephesians 4-5





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**God's ways are always best and not following them as God said to is sin!**

## Judging Others

**"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup>Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces."** -Matthew 7:1-6

**Ponder:** Lord, how am I being hypocritical Lord? What plank do I (by your grace) need to have removed so that I can see you clearly and see this individual (who is an image bearer of You, Lord) the way that you want me to see them?

## No Complaining or Arguing

**"Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup>as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."** -Philippians 2:14-16

**Ponder:** Lord, is there any hint of complaining or arguing in my mind, will, or affections? If there is, I have not forgiven as Christ forgave me and I, therefore, need to repent and forgive as Christ forgave me.

## Always Full of Grace

**"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."** - Colossians 4:6 (literally in grace)

**Ponder:** Lord, when I think about this person how can my thoughts be full of grace? Lord, how can my thoughts be seasoned with salt ("pure and penetrating")? What words can I say, Lord, that as they come off of my tongue they will be saturated in grace? What words can I say, Lord, that will be seasoned with salt?

## Do I need to be reconciled?

**"If your brother has something against you . . . leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."** -Matthew 5:23-24

**Ponder:** Lord, how do you want me to seek forgiveness from this person whom I have sinned against?

## Avoiding Errors/Sin

**"It is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps errors."** -Proverbs 19:2

**Ponder:** How can I not hurry my footsteps (e.g. stop and pray through it, maybe write out, or at least think out, what to say and check it against God's word)? Lord, how do you want me to go about this?

## Go to them alone first:

**"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."** -Matthew 18:15

## After you went alone (and continue to go alone and there is no resolution), then you can go with another:

**"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.'" -Matthew 18:16**

## After you have gone alone and with another (and continue to go and there is no resolution), then you can bring it before a group:

**"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."** -Matthew 18:17

## Overcome Evil with Good

**"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."**

-Romans 12:9-21