

God's Way of Resolving Conflict in Relationships

1. I should never under-estimate the danger of sin; sin is never the answer to any problem (Num 32:23; Prov 14:9; Rom 6:23; 8:6; Gal 6:7-9).
2. I should not hypocritically judge one who has wronged me. I should go to the one who has trespassed against me only when I have removed the beam out of my own eye first (Mat 7:1-5). I should focus foremost on judging myself (1Cor 11:31, 32). After all, my walk with Christ (which should be the most important relationship in my life) can only be damaged by MY sin. This requires me being more concerned with my fellowship with Jesus than with my fellowship with the other person or my own desires.
3. Self-judgment, as a believer, involves confessing my sins to God and forsaking them (1John 1:9; Prov 28:13). The result of true repentance toward God should be an intense desire to not be overtaken by sin again (John 8:11; 2Tim 2:19; Heb 1:9; 12:1; 1Cor 10:13; James 1:12; 1John 2:1; Rom 6:1-23; 2Peter 3:14; 1Peter 1:16). Conflict can be a spotlight that uncovers faults in my own life that I need to deal with to make me a better Christian.
4. If I've trespassed against them, I should sincerely tell them I repent of it (Luke 17:3,4).
5. God commands them to forgive me (Luke 17:3,4; Matt 6:14, 15; 18:21-35). If they will not, THEY have now sinned and should perhaps be counseled by someone if they continue to refuse to forgive me. But regardless, I have done what I should do.
6. If I think THEY have trespassed against me, I should first establish that they have truly done me wrong. I should try to know the exact scripture they violated. I could have misunderstood or made a big deal out of nothing. I should be sure I am not overly sensitive or being too critical. My hurt feelings can many times be the result of my own pride and discontent, having too many expectations, thinking I deserve better. If indeed they have trespassed against me, I should be diligent and not fail of the grace of God. I should not let a root of bitterness trouble me (Heb 12:14, 15). I should let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away, with all malice—and instead be kind, tender hearted, and forgiving (Eph 4:31, 32). I should not let the sun go down on my wrath (Eph 4:26, 27).
7. If they truly have trespassed against me, I should go to them and rebuke them, alone first, in the spirit of meekness, with the desire to restore them and gain my brother (Matt 18:15; Luke 17:3,4; Gal 6:1).
8. If they repent, I should forgive them to restored fellowship (Luke 17:3,4; Matt 6:14, 15; 18:21-35).
9. I should patiently fulfill all my scriptural responsibilities to them, even if they are not fulfilling their responsibilities to me (1Pet 2:18-23). I will have a good conscience and I may win them by my godly conduct (1Pet 3:1-18). I should take away all excuses from them. Being godly will make it easier for them to fulfill their responsibilities to me.