

Lesson 10 for
June 8, 2019



LITTLE TIMES OF TROUBLE



The Bible is a reliable guide of conduct. It provides valuable advice on how to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

These conflicts sometimes cause trouble at home. This week we studied several Bible passages that may help us prevent and resolve conflicts between family members.

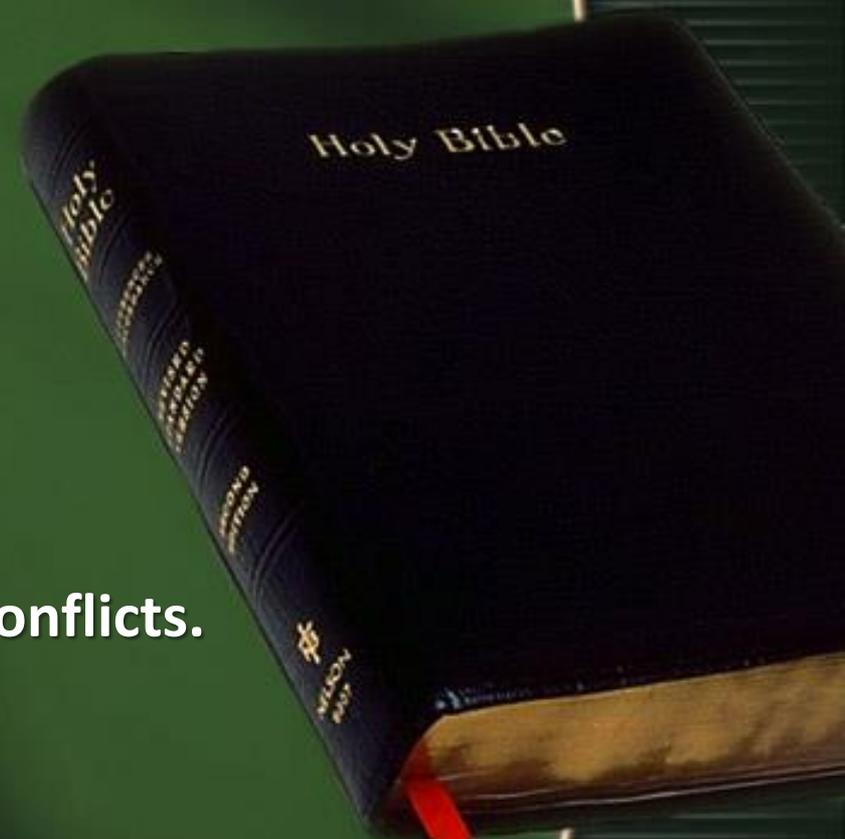
 Seven pieces of advice to avoid conflicts.

 Counsels for conflict resolution:

 Dominating the anger.

 True love.

 The importance of forgiveness.

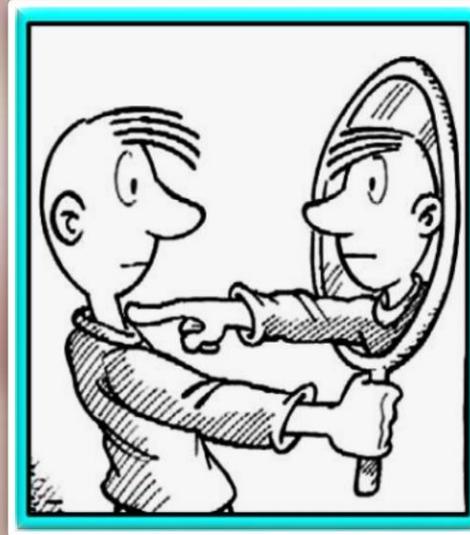


1

"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:5)

Before trying to fix other people's imperfections, we should understand that our own imperfections are greater, and they must be fixed first.

Criticizing others' mistakes generates more trouble instead of solving it.



2

"The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression." (Proverbs 19:11)



When you feel offended, ask yourself: Is it worthy to start a conflict because of this?

Reflect on what happened, share your feelings in a positive way, and suggest a solution that is actually the best for everyone involved.

3

"Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out." (Proverbs 17:14 NIV)



Before starting a conflict, think about its future repercussions in the next two to three days. And what about the repercussions in a year or two?

Many couples have fought over issues that may seem trite today.

4

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." (Romans 14:19)

We can prevent conflict by following two simple pieces of advice:

- 1. Do everything that brings peace and harmony to your home.**
- 2. Seek the way to encourage the personal growth of your partner.**



5 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

You must learn to forgive as Christ has forgiven you, especially if you think your partner does not deserve your forgiveness.



6 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)



Accept that your spouse is a sinner and they're not perfect. Accept them as Christ accepts you.

Prayerfully seek a joint growth in holiness.

7 "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

Don't work for your own sake only; put your partner's wellbeing first. Whatever is good for them, we'll be good for you too.





DOMINATING THE ANGER

“Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)

When does anger become a sin?

The unfair anger that springs up from selfishness is a sin against those who we address it to.

If fair anger is maintained, it eventually becomes resentment, which is a sin too.



Paul encouraged us not to keep the anger, but to solve the conflict before today ends.



You may have a good reason to be angry, but don't use it as an excuse to stay that way.

Pray for those who hurt you, forgive them and become a blessing to them.

TRUE LOVE

**"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."
(Colossians 3:19)**

Some people have a wrong concept of love. They think that the more they love their partner, the more they have to impose their will so they're spouse are happy. They may even use violence or abuse to do so.

True love is not imposing or violent. It imitates God's love. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of things. It does not delight in evil. It always protects (1Co. 13; 1Jn. 4:7-8).

When true love reigns, mutual service is the norm. Both parts feel protected and safe.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)



The apostle Paul encouraged us to be in peace with everyone, as far as we're concerned (Romans 12:18). How is this related to forgiveness?



If we caused the issue, we must admit our guilt and sincerely ask for forgiveness.

If someone has offended us, we must forgive them even if they don't apologize. If God has forgiven us, shouldn't we forgive others too (Matthew 18:21-35)?

Our goal should always be to restore broken relationships, thus bringing peace back to them.



“If the will of God is fulfilled, the husband and wife will respect each other and cultivate love and confidence. Anything that would mar the peace and unity of the family should be firmly repressed, and kindness and love should be cherished. He who manifests the spirit of tenderness, forbearance, and love will find that the same spirit will be reflected upon him. Where the Spirit of God reigns, there will be no talk of unsuitability in the marriage relation. If Christ indeed is formed within, the hope of glory, there will be union and love in the home. Christ abiding in the heart of the wife will be at agreement with Christ abiding in the heart of the husband. They will be striving together for the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those who love Him.”

E.G.W. (Counsels for the Church, cp. 21, p. 131)