

RESOLVE

A 6-WEEK STUDY
ON BIBLICAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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CHAPTER 1

CONFLICT: IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.

- PROVERBS 3:5-6

As we seek to deepen our relationships with one another, conflict is unavoidable. At the first sign of conflict in your community group, you may be asking yourself, "Why was I ever matched with these people?" or "Did I make a huge mistake getting in this group?" As you have tough conversations and experience conflict with others in your group, it may be tempting to want to 'take your ball and go home.'

As God's people, we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict. We believe conflict provides an opportunity to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ.

Healthy community groups commit to responding to conflict according to biblical principles since we are called to maintain "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). As believers, we are called to actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither. We are called to "forgive others as God, through Christ, has forgiven us" (Ephesians 4:32).

As we will see in the following pages, we are called to keep short accounts with one another (Ephesians 4:26); to take responsibility for our own contribution to the conflict (Matthew 7:3-5); to go show our brother his fault (Matthew 18:15); and to seek reconciliation (Matthew 5:23, 24).

Followers of Christ should be committed to resolving conflict in a way that glorifies the Lord, edifies the body of Christ, and reflects His character. Applying these principles is a matter of obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was conflict handled in your family growing up?
2. How have you handled conflict/miscommunications in the past with friends?
3. In your experience, has the church failed to handle conflict differently than the world? Explain.
4. Discuss ways that conflict can glorify God, edify the body of Christ, and reflect His character.
5. Based on the materials and Scripture referenced above, are there any conflicts that you are not currently stewarding well? Explain.