

A Biblical View of Conflict – Part 2

Introduction:

1. Very few people enjoy conflict, yet it is an inevitable part of our journey through this life.
2. Most people have developed habitual responses when conflict is encountered with another person. Here are a few of those responses:
 - **Avoiding**
 - **Accommodating**
 - **Compromising**
 - **Competing**
3. The Bible explains why conflicts occur, and how we should deal with them. Let's examine some basic Bible principles in regards to conflict.

Some conflict involves issues that are **neutral** and beneficial.

1. All conflict does not occur over **clear** issues of right and wrong.
Acts 15:36-40
2. We should seek **unity** in our relationships, but not **uniformity**.
Romans 12:3-8
3. We should rejoice in our God-given diversity and learn to accept and work with people who simply see things **differently** than we do. Romans 14:1-13

Conflict is caused by _____ behavior or attitudes.

1. *"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."*
Proverbs 13:10
2. When a conflict is the result of _____ desires or actions that are too serious to be overlooked, we need to deal with them in a straightforward manner. Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
3. Loving confrontation is often the key to repentance, which can remove the _____ causes of conflict and open the way for genuine peace.

**Conflict is an opportunity to demonstrate the presence and
_____ of God.**

1. The church at Corinth was an internal mess. Religious, legal, and dietary disputes threatened to divide their church. Yet notice Paul's admonition to them. 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
2. According to this passage, conflict provides us an opportunity to:
 - _____ **God (10:31)**
 - _____ **others (10:32-33)**
 - **Become more _____ (11:1)**
3. God can use conflict to instill new, righteous habits and responses in us, as well as stretch and develop us in Christian character.