

Free Yourself from Sin – Part 2 Continued

Introduction:

1. Conflict is a part of life. There is no way to avoid it. It is inevitable.
2. Biblically, how do we resolve conflict?
 - First, we must answer the question, “Is this worth fighting over?”
 - Second, we must examine ourselves and see how we may have contributed to the conflict.
3. Once we begin to see how our own wrongs have contributed to a problem, we must seek to free ourselves from sin, if we are to have any hope of resolving the conflict.
4. This process involves three basic steps:
5. Through this three-step process, God has provided a way to obtain forgiveness, clean up the past, and change undesirable patterns of behavior.

Repentance

Confession

Personal Change

1. The third step in dealing with sin is to work with God to change our future behavior.
2. When others see us striving to change our sinful attitudes and actions, this brings validity to our repentance and confession. Proverbs 28:13; Ezekiel 14:6, 18:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
3. Godly change is so important that the writers of the New Testament devoted a great deal of attention to it. In one epistle after another, God describes the qualities He wants us to develop. 2 Peter 1:4-8; Colossians 3:5-14
 - It is important to understand – people can change!
4. Let’s look at four basic ingredients that combine to create personal change:

First, _____

- The qualities that God wants us to develop in our lives are sometimes referred to as “*the fruit of the Spirit.*” Galatians 5:22-23
- A Christian cannot cultivate spiritual fruit apart from God’s active assistance.

- *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

John 15:4-5

Second, _____ on the Lord

- *“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*

2 Timothy 2:22

Third, _____

- The Bible emphasizes the close connection between transformed _____ and personal change. Romans 8:6, 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24
- Regular time spent in God’s Word helps us to _____ and guard against sinful habits that compel us to behave in destructive ways.
- The more we study the Bible and carefully absorb what we learn, the more we will be conformed to the image of Christ. 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17

Fourth, _____

- Ephesians 4:24 commands us to *“put on the **new man**.”* This means we have to practice what we are _____. Philippians 4:9
- We do not put on Christ-like character by _____. It will only happen through dedicated practice. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Timothy 4:7
- In 2 Timothy 2:22, the word “_____” means “to strive after; track down; or hound.” As we strive to put on the new man, we don’t give up. We are persistent.

In Conclusion:

1. To be an effective peacemaker, we must deal honestly with our own faults.
2. As we get the _____ out of our own eye, we will be better prepared to help others and resolve conflict.