

# Is This Really Worth Fighting Over?

## Introduction:

1. Conflicts generally involve two kinds of issues: material and personal.
2. One of the first things to do when you are involved in a conflict is to \_\_\_\_\_ the personal and material issues, and discern how they relate to one another. Then you can begin to decide which steps you must take to resolve the problem.
3. It is wise to begin this process by asking yourself, "Is this really worth fighting over?"
4. The Bible **does** teach and indicate that, in many situations, the best way to resolve a conflict is simply to \_\_\_\_\_ the offences of others. Proverbs 19:11, 17:9, 14; 1 Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
5. Since God does not deal harshly with us \_\_\_\_\_ time we sin, we should be willing to treat others in a similar fashion. This should take place under two conditions:
  - The offense should not have created a \_\_\_\_\_ between you and the other person, or caused you to feel differently toward him or her for more than a short period of time.
  - The offense should not be doing serious \_\_\_\_\_ to God's reputation, to others, or to the offender.
6. But, many times, even when we should overlook an offense, it is a difficult thing to do.

In this lesson, we will explore three practical principles that will help us to overlook an offense when we decide that an issue is not worth fighting over.

## First, check your own \_\_\_\_\_.

1. There were two people at odds with one another in the church at Philippi. In Philippians 4:2-9, the apostle Paul focuses on the steps they must take to develop a proper attitude toward their situation and toward each other. These principles will help us if we are involved in a conflict.
2. Step # 1 is to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord. vs. 4
  - If Jesus is your Savior, your name is in the Book of Life (vs. 3)! No conflict should overshadow the joy of having received forgiveness through Christ.

The more we rejoice in that forgiveness, the \_\_\_\_\_ it will be to forgive others.

3. Step # 2 is to possess a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit. vs. 5
4. Step # 3 is to replace anxious thoughts with \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 6-7
5. Step # 4 is to focus on the \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 8
  - When involved in conflict, most people tend to \_\_\_\_\_ on the negative characteristics of the other person, exaggerating faults, and overlooking virtues.
  - To overcome this prejudicial tendency, you must think deliberately about aspects of your opponent that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good.
6. If you are presently involved in a conflict, ask yourself these questions:
  - What are the material issues in this conflict?
  - What are the personal issues in this conflict?
  - Which personal issues are having the greatest influence on you? How about your opponent?
  - What has the other person done that has offended you?
  - Check your attitude:
    - Why can you rejoice in the Lord in this situation?
    - Have you been irritable, rude, or abrasive in this situation? From this point on, where or how can you make a special effort to be forbearing, gentle, courteous, considerate, and kind? How could your gentleness be more evident to others?
    - What have you been worried or anxious about? How much have you prayed about this situation?
    - What is good about the person with whom you are in conflict? What is right about his or her concerns? Do you have any good memories of your relationship with him or her? How has God helped you through that person?
7. As we readjust our \_\_\_\_\_, God may show us that this issue is not worth fighting over.
8. Next week, we will examine two more practical principles that will help us to decide if an issue is worth fighting over.