

# Conflict

James 4:1-10

The quarrels and fights that occur in a life often derive from evil desires such as: Pride, Jealousy, Anger, Bitterness, Unforgiveness, Resentment, Superiority.

There are five ways for us to resolve conflict within our lives through **1 Peter 3:8-12**

## **1. *Be like-minded (v8)***

In the church, we can spend so much time in disagreements that we forget that we're like minded in our love of Christ.

We can come to each other in times of disagreement by acknowledging our love for Christ, being like-minded.

## **2. *Be sympathetic (v8)***

Taking the time to understand the other perspective in a disagreement is key in resolving conflict.

Often our inability to see the inward difficulties that our peer may be dealing with, is due to our pride.

**Proverbs 13:10 - Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.**

We can become so consumed with being right, that we forget about our responsibility to see things from the other person's side.

Step into the other persons shoes!

### **3. Repay evil with blessing (v9)**

Don't look for revenge!

What better example than Jesus and his death on the cross. If anyone could have reacted to the way he was mistreated, it was Jesus!

**Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:8**

If we have conflict with someone who is not a believer, what a way to set an example and to reflect Jesus to them – by blessing them.

Don't repay evil with blessing out of compliance or anger, do it cheerfully.

#### **4. Watch your speech (v10)**

##### **Ephesians 4:29**

You can't take your words back.

It is better to delay the conversation than to say something you can't take back.

#### **5. Seek peace always (v11)**

**2 Corinthians 3:11, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Romans 12:17-18, Matthew 18:15, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 3:15-17**

It is difficult to feel God's peace if we do not have peaceful earthly relationships.

We can't control the actions of others, but we can control our own heart.

We must turn from evil, from unforgiveness, from bitterness, from hard-heartedness, and we must seek peace and pursue it.

While we must always look for peace and ensure the condition of our heart is pure, we still need to edify each other and improve one another through honesty and truth.

**James 4:7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you.**

When you aren't sure what to do, ask God, come close to God and he will come close to you.

Humility before God is often the key to resolving conflict in our lives.