

In resolving conflicts, is it best to focus on my error even if the other takes no responsibility?

In a conflict there are at least two people involved. As Christians, we ought to seek out ways to resolve the conflict and to be used of God to reconcile people to God and to one another.

1. What should be the first steps toward conflict resolution?

James **1:19-21**
Proverbs 25:2

Proverbs **15:1**
Proverbs **18:13**

The first order issue in regards to conflict resolution is to listen to the other party or parties in the conflict in order to make sure that the issue is understood. This means that we need to spend more time listening than talking and diligently search out the details of the matter before pursuing a resolution.

2. What do I need to consider about myself while in the midst of a conflict?

Matthew **5:21-26**
Titus **3:8-10**
James **5:16**

1 Corinthians **6:7**
Ephesians **4:14-15**

I need to remember that in a conflict in which I have acted in a manner that provoked the conflict or otherwise inappropriately aggravated the situation, I must be proactive in taking action to seek resolution in the matter. It is completely appropriate to accept being wronged or mistreated in the midst of reconciliation, as long as the person, work or word of Christ are not being compromised. This does mean that we may sometimes have to either accept as plausible or an issue of inconsequential significance some of the issues others may stand upon. Such an example may include such matters as church hierarchy. While seeking reconciliation with another, there are limits to our pursuit of reconciliation. If reconciliation would require compromising on the word of God (accepting abortion, promiscuity, homosexual behavior, stealing, lying, etc.) then we need to be less concerned about being reconciled with the other person and become more concerned about their reconciliation with God. When I am wrong or have acted wrongly, I need to be ready to admit my fault. Notice that there is to be no need nor expectation that the other person admit their own fault or failing.

3. What do I need to consider about the others person while in the midst of a conflict?

Romans **12:18-21**
Proverbs **20:6**

John **3:19-20**

Unfortunately it is possible that the other person in the conflict will refuse to be reconciled. We cannot be held accountable for the lack of reconciliation when the other person refuses to engage in the process of reconciliation. All that I can do is to humbly seek after reconciliation and do whatever it takes (within reason) to be reconciled. Obviously not every conflict can be resolved in a matter that upholds the truth of the bible and shows receivable compassion upon the other. People

are comfortable in their own sinful condition with no thought of changing their mind nor their actions. As Christians we cannot accept sinful behavior as God honoring and blessed.

4. What are some other principles I should keep in mind in regards to conflicts?

Proverbs **30:32**

Proverbs **12:15** with John **17:17**

Proverbs **3:5-6**

Proverbs **17:28**

If your own words or actions have aggravated the conflict, then it is time to stop making the problem worse. Now is the time to apologize for your own words and behavior. It is important that we not hold onto our view for the sake of holding onto our view. We need to seek out qualified counsel and wisdom, starting with the Word of God. We need to be prepared to change our own mind about the position we hold, when God's word or the truth is revealed that is in conflict with our own ideas. If the stated prevailing concept of the "truth" of the matter is in conflict with the scriptures, it is the stated prevailing concept of the "truth" that is in error (think evolution). If you do not know the answer to an issue, it can be best to remain silent. You can also tell the other person that you may not have an answer to him but you will seek out information.