

BBC Bible Study Notes
From the Series: Peacemakers
“Dealing with Conflict God’s Way”
June 28, 2020

1. What causes conflict?

- Misunderstandings that result from poor communication (Joshua 22:10-34)
- Differences in beliefs, expectations or goals (Acts 15:36-39)
- Competition over power, authority, or limited resources (Genesis 13:1-12)
- Sinful attitudes, words and actions (James 4:1-2)

2. How do we often respond to conflict?

- Peace “Faking” (escape responses): Denial (Genesis 16:1-6, 1 Samuel 2:22-25), Flight (Genesis 16:6-8), Suicide (1 Samuel 31:4)
- Peace “Breaking” (attack responses): Assault (Acts 6:8-15), Litigation (Romans 13:1-5, 1 Cor. 6:1-8), Murder (Acts 7:54-58, Matt. 5:21-22)

3. How does God want us to respond to conflict?

- Personal peacemaking: Overlook minor offenses (Prov. 19:11), Reconciliation (Matt. 5:23-24) Negotiation (Phil. 2:4)
- Assisted peacemaking: Mediation (Mt. 18:16), Arbitration (1 Cor. 6:4), Accountability (Mt. 18:17)

4. Why does God care about how we handle conflict?

- When we do not handle conflict well it grieves God (Eph. 4:30-32)
- When we do handle conflict well by loving each other it shows that we are truly disciples of Christ. (John 13:35)

BBC Verse of the Week: *“God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children.” Matthew 5:9 CEV*

Recommended Reading: The Peacemaker by Ken Sande

BBC Devotional Guide for June 28 to July 4, 2020

Sunday: In the Bible, God explains why personal conflicts occur and how we should deal with them. James 4:1-2 says, *“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.”* So much of the conflict we experience comes from a selfish and sinful heart. When we don’t get what we want—there is conflict. As you face conflict, ask God to show you the condition of your heart and how you may be contributing to the conflict.

Monday: In the book of Acts we read about a conflict between two leaders in the early church, Paul and Barnabas. The Bible says, *“Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.”* (Acts 15:37-39) Sometimes conflicts occur because we have different beliefs or perspectives and instead of working things out, people go their separate ways. Ask God to help you listen to others with whom you disagree and consider their point of view.

Tuesday: *“A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”* (Proverbs 19:11) A wise person is patient with others and some offenses are so minor or unimportant that they can be resolved simply by overlooking them. Can you think of some examples of this in your own life? Ask God to give you wisdom and patience as you deal with conflict today.

Wednesday: *“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to that person; then come and offer your gift.”* (Matthew 5:23-24) Conflict with others can directly affect your relationship with God. According to these verses, if someone has something against you who is responsible to trying to resolve the situation? Ask God for the desire and ability to follow these words about resolving conflict.

Thursday: *“If a brother or sister sins, go and point out the fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”* (Matthew 18:15) Jesus taught that the starting point for resolving conflict is to try to work things out with the person who offended you. Unfortunately, when this first step is overlooked and we share how someone has offended us with others it leads to more conflict as well as gossip. Ask God to help you follow His instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 for resolving conflict.

Friday: *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). This verse is the advice that Paul gave to believers in Corinth when religious, dietary and legal disputes threatened to destroy the church. Biblical peacemaking is motivated by a desire to honor God. It is accomplished as we rely on the reconciling power and love of Christ. Ask God to give you a deep desire to be a peacemaker today.

Saturday: *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.”* (Ephesians 4:29-30a) When conflict is not handled well and we hurt others, it grieves God and affects our witness in the world. Ask God to help you grow in your desire and skill as a peacemaker.