

BBCC Bible Study Notes
From the Series: Peacemakers
“The Heartbeat of Harmony”
July 12, 2020

How can I take responsibility for my part in situations involving conflict?

1. Examine your heart. (Mt. 15:19, Ps. 139:23-24)

I desire → I demand → I judge → I punish

Things to look for when examining your heart:

- Using your words as a weapon. (James 3:5-6, Proverbs 12:18)
- Trying to control others. (Gen. 29:15-30)
- Breaking your word. (Mt. 5:33-37, Num. 30:2, Deut. 23:23, Prov. 2:17)
- Failing to respect authority. (Rom. 13:1-7)
- Forgetting Christ’s “golden rule”. (Mt. 7:12)
- Serving sinful desires. (1 John 2:15-17)

2. Repent (Luke 15:17, 2 Tim. 2:25-26, Isaiah 55:7, 2 Cor. 7:9-10)

- Repentance is more than a feeling, it involves changing the way we think.

3. Confess

- Admit your part in the conflict (Luke 15:18)
- Acknowledge the hurt (Luke 15:18)
- Accept the consequences (Luke 15:19)
- Ask for forgiveness (Ps. 19:12, Luke 17:3-4)

4. Change (Phil. 1:6, Phil. 2:12-13, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

BBCC Verse of the Week: “You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up: then God will show mercy to you.” Proverbs 28:13
GNT

BBCC Devotional Guide for July 12 -18, 2020

Sunday: When it comes to dealing with conflict consider what Jesus said: *“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye’, when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”* (Matthew 7:3-4 NLT) One of the things Jesus is teaching in this passage is that we can easily overlook our own faults and focus on the faults of others. This week as we consider our part in resolving conflict, ask God to help you see the condition of your heart.

Monday: In order to follow the command of Christ and “take the log out of our eye,” we need to examine our heart. What should we look for as we do this heart exam? One is using our words as a weapon. Proverbs 12:18 says, *“Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.”* In the book of James our words are compared to a fire that can do great harm (James 3:5-6). As you speak to people today consider how you can use your words to bring healing rather than harm.

Tuesday: Another thing we should look for when examining our hearts is whether or not we have broken our word. A failure to follow through on a commitment is a major source of conflict. Consider these words from Psalm 15:1-4, *“Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts.”*

Wednesday: Another thing to look for as we examine our hearts is a failure to follow this command of Jesus, *“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”* (Matthew 7:12 NLT) These words have been called the “golden rule” and have great implications for preventing conflict with others in our lives. Ask God to help you consistently put these words of Jesus into practice in your life.

Thursday: As we deal with conflict it is important to consider this prayer from King David, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”* (Psalm 139:23-24 NLT) I encourage you to use the words of this psalm today as you ask God to show you the condition of your heart.

Friday: Repentance is a gift from God where He convicts us of our sin and shows us the path to freedom and peace. In the Bible, repentance is sometimes described as “coming to our senses”—we wake up and realize that we were wrong and God was right and this realization results in letting go of our sin and turning to God. These verses describe repentance: *“Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.”* (Isaiah 55:7 NLT) When you are repentant you are sad not only because you have broken God’s rules, but because you have broken God’s heart. Where is there a need for repentance in your life?

Saturday: Taking responsibility for our part in conflict involves confession when we are wrong. Consider these verses about confession: *“You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up: then God will show mercy to you.”* (Proverbs 28:13 GNT) *“But if we own up to our sins, God shows that He is faithful and just by forgiving us of our sins and purifying us from the pollution of all the bad things we have done.”* (1 John 1:9 The Voice) Is there anything you need to confess to God today? Thank God for His promise of forgiveness as we confess our sin to Him.