

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 13 | biblical conflict resolution for your family, part 1

I. We will never resolve conflict to God's glory if we don't prepare our minds.

- Be Thankful for the Conflict

- One way we can be thankful is by acknowledging that God is working. James 1:2-4 and Romans 8:28-29 are extremely helpful in opening our eyes to this Truth.
- But we can also be thankful because according to I Corinthians 13:7 we've been called to hope all things and believe all things.
- We need to enter a conflict situation trusting that God is actively working in you and your family member and that we lovingly hope and believe that our family member is going to respond correctly when confronted.
- If we're only going to have conflict, there's not much for which to look forward except how God promises to use the situation to mature us. But since we're talking about conflict *resolution*, we can get even more excited about that because it involves reconciliation.
- This is likely the most counter-intuitive point today. If we could get this one thing, it would drastically change how we engage the Flesh in our homes.

- Check your Flesh.

- Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 7:14-24
- We should not automatically assume in any situation that we're automatically right — either in our position or in our *response* to their position or behavior. We need to do some self-triage first before diving headlong into the conflict.
- We parents often say all the right things, but we say them in the wrong way.
- Before entering any spiritual engagement with someone else's sin nature, you must start by making sure the content and the method of your communication is pleasing to the Lord.
- If you're a born again believer, you need to ask God for wisdom to know His Truth and confess and repent where your life does not line up. You don't have to wonder where to find His Truth, it's all in the Bible. You then need to see your own Gospel need in the moment, and let fly the Truth right into the foolish thoughts and beliefs in your mind that convinced you that your way was better than God's.
- Remember Truth either destroys or sanctifies. When you interact with it, you will either become calloused to it and hate it, or you'll see it for what it is and submit to it.

- Remember that your struggle is not against flesh and blood.

- Ephesians 6:12
- Before you engage in spiritual conflict with another, prepare your mind by thanking God for the opportunity, confronting your flesh as necessary, and remembering who the real enemy in this situation is.

II. We will never resolve conflict to God's glory if we don't make the time.

- Don't Run from Conflict

- Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:19-20; I Thessalonians 5:14; II Thessalonians 3:14-15; I Timothy 5:20
- We never have an excuse to dodge or avoid conflict.
- If we can engage in Biblical Conflict Resolution, we must.
- It's not okay to ignore sin. It's not okay to let your kid work through it on their own. It's not okay to pretend like it didn't happen. It's not okay to throw out worldly slogans and platitudes like "it's okay" or "boys will be boys" or "let them cry it out." Those are all avoidance techniques, and God commands us to confront — to do it the right way — but to confront nonetheless.

- **Resolve the Conflict in a Timely Manner (immediately if possible)**
 - Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:26
 - Take whatever time necessary to be truly thankful for the situation, deal with your own Fleshly failures, and focus on the correct enemy.
 - God says that if you have sinned, there is nothing more important — including worshipping God — than being reconciled.
 - But don't drag your feet so you take too much time and end up avoiding it or forgetting. That's not helpful for anyone.
 - Immediacy is best, but only if it glorifies God.

III. We will never resolve conflict to God's glory if we don't speak Truth

- Ephesians 6; Romans 1; Ephesians 4:15; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:3
- Biblical Conflict Resolution is not about making someone agree with me. It's about all of us agreeing with God.
- One of the universal truths about any kind of conflict is that no one person is 100% right while the other is 100% wrong. It happens from time to time. I've seen it, but generally both people involved are partially right and partially wrong.
- It's impossible for people in that position to come to any agreement on those terms. Neither one will want to accept where the other is clearly wrong.
- But, with God's absolute Truth as the goal, we're both called to bend and move and change to align ourselves with Him. Conflict Resolution is simply two or more people discovering what God has to say and encouraging each other to do that.
- That's the only way a true, non-compromising resolution and reconciliation can be achieved.

Love.
Parent.

... a part of the Evermind Ministries family.