

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 14 | biblical conflict resolution for your family, part 2

I. Review

- **In order to resolve conflict to God's glory, we must prepare our minds.** That included the counter-intuitive step of thanking God for the conflict, checking our own Flesh for sinful responses, and remembering that our struggle is not against flesh and blood.
- **In order to resolve conflict to God's glory, we must make the time.** This involves not running from conflict, but instead actually running to it, and making certain to resolve the conflict in a timely manner — basically the moment we're prepared to do it the right way.
- **In order to resolve conflict to God's glory, we must speak the Truth.** This involves not only refusing to lie and deceive, but also a firm commitment to intentionally speak God's Truth and nothing but His Truth — no personal delusions allowed.

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

- We must speak cautiously. Proverbs 12:18; James 1:19-20; Proverbs 14:17; Proverbs 14:29
 - When there's a conflict in your home, you are required by God to speak into it. I'm not saying you're required to quell every one or fix every one, but — as the parent — you are required to have a hand in leading your family members to reconciliation. This is just as true if you're not one of the ones involved as when you are.
 - Would your children say that when you insert yourself into their confrontations that your presence is "healing"?
 - Mindless rambling is akin to sprinting full speed along a precipitous ledge on wet rocks! Take your words slowly; carefully consider each one. Is it Truth spoken in love? Are you using your word the way God would use your word?
- We must speak kindly. Ephesians 4:31-32; I Peter 3:8-11; Colossians 3:12-13
 - The Greek words translated "bitterness" and "kind" can just as easily be translated "wickedness" and "goodness." To be kind — according to Ephesians 4:32 — is to be good, virtuous, mild, pleasant, and gracious. It's a word that beautifully sums up all that is good.

III. We will never resolve conflict to God's glory if we don't request and grant forgiveness.

- Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 5:23-24; II Corinthians 5:18-21; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20
- True Christ-honoring conflict resolution will always involve reconciliation, and reconciliation requires repentance and forgiveness.
- We must accept that all Christ-honoring conflict resolution will always involve the requesting and granting of forgiveness.
- To be clear, if one side is ready to forgive, but the other is too prideful to acknowledge their sin, the conflict has not been resolved.
- However, if the offending party is ready to confess and repent, no resolution will be enjoyed if the offended party refuses to forgive.
- In spiritual warfare, we must be working toward reconciliation at every point. This is the grand responsibility toward which all Christian parents have been called.
- On most occasions — this will not involve one party waiting for the other to admit how they were 100% wrong while the other was 100% right. As the imperfect and incomplete creatures we are, in most conflict situations we are both right on some points and wrong on others.

IV. We will never resolve conflict to God's glory if we don't invite assistance when all of our Christ-honoring attempts to resolve the conflict fail.

- Matthew 18:15-18
- Nothing is more important than the saving of a soul. Those who would put the soul in danger are wicked and deserve to die. We should be willing to sacrifice everything to save a soul, even if that means going to extremes and getting others involved in order to help that soul be reconciled to God.
- Yes, it may result in my child refusing my conflict resolution, the correction of godly men and women, and even the loving intervention of the church. And yes, I may have to accept the fact that — in that situation — my child is not born again as they may have previously professed.
- But Jesus would have us take that final step in order that the church may better understand the spiritual plight of this individual. It's not so that we refuse to communicate with them. It's so that we can interact with them as we would any other unbeliever — we lovingly share the Gospel with them as the salt and light we're called to be.
- This is the point to which I alluded earlier. Jesus Himself makes it clear that someone who refuses to be reconciled in the face of biblical conflict resolution must be treated as an unbeliever because believers don't act that way.

IV. Our role in the spiritual warfare of our family members may best be described as *discipleship*

- Colossians 3:1-17
- As Ambassadors we use the Bible to teach, reprove, correct, and train. Each of those steps are absolutely vital in making, equipping, and supporting your children and your spouse in their spiritual warfare.
- And Biblical Conflict Resolution — in a nutshell — is the reproof stage of discipleship.
- Can you imagine? The second stage of parenting, the instrumental step that comes right before reconciliation, counsel, and training in righteousness is the stage we neglect or do so poorly.
- It's no wonder we're not seeing more victory in the spiritual warfare in our homes.