

## Biblical Conflict Resolution, Part 3 | prepare your focus

### I. Review

- We've talked about how we need to prepare our worldview.
  - We prepare our worldview by remembering that we can only ever control ourselves.
  - We also need to establish for time and memorial that disagreement is not a bad thing.
    - Disagreement can be valuable.
    - When done in a Christ-honoring way, all disagreement has the potential of benefitting all of us.
    - But when sin is involved in that disagreement, it becomes conflict, and that is always wrong.

### II. Check Your Own Eye.

- **Recognize that you should be more familiar with your sin than you are the sins of others.** I Samuel 16:7; I Timothy 1:15
  - You can only ever perceive another person's actions, words, and—to a certain degree—feelings. But unless they tell you about it, you can never see another person's desires, thoughts, and beliefs.
  - Paul could honestly say that about himself because in addition to perceiving his own actions, words, and feelings, he was very much aware of his own sinful desires, thoughts, and beliefs.
  - This means that if he were ever to compare his sins versus Timothy's or Demas' or John Mark's, his own list would always be longer. We can only ever see the outward appearance, unless it's our own heart.
  - Therefore, dealing with the sin in our own lives should always be easier than dealing with the sin in another's because our's should be so obvious to us. And this is why Jesus tells us to start conflict resolution by first looking to our own hearts.
- **Ask God to help you see your sin.**
  - Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 26:2; Proverbs 17:3
  - Your heart is deceitful and wicked, and—let's be honest—you can't really know just how wicked it is.
  - If you're serious about truly knowing your heart and discovering the logs in your own eye, you must open God's Word and beseech the Holy Spirit to help you identify the ways you might be sinning in the conflict. And you need to do that first . . . before you start itemizing the sins in the other person's life.
- **Honestly compare your actions, words, and thoughts to the Scriptures.**
  - James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:1-5
  - It's too easy to trust our own minds, to take the word of our friends or favorite talking heads, but when it comes to truly knowing the state of our spiritual lives, we have to open the Bible.
  - How does your love compare to Scripture? What about your communication? How about your attitude? Are you being thankful? Are you being sinfully angry?