



*Rea*lationships

A mess worth making

Conflict Resolution



Reality of conflict

- ❖ With others
- ❖ With ourselves
- ❖ With God



Conflict resolution

Where does conflict come from?

Why should we resolve conflict?

How do we respond to conflict?

How should we resolve conflict?

Reason for Conflict

- ❖ **The Heart**
(Genesis 3)
(Prov 13:10)
(James 4:1-3)

Reason for Conflict

- ❖ **Misunderstanding** (Acts 15:22-29)
- ❖ **Differences** in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)
- ❖ **Competition** over limited resources (Genesis 13:1-12)
- ❖ **Sinful attitudes** and **desires** that lead to sinful words and actions (James 4:1-3)

Reason to resolve Conflict

❖ **GOD COMMANDS IT! (Romans 12:18)**

Why?

- ❖ Peace with God
- ❖ Peace of God (ourselves)
- ❖ Peace with people (others)

Responses to Conflict

FLIGHT
(idol of comfort)

Denial
Run
Suicide

DISSOLVED
RELATIONSHIP

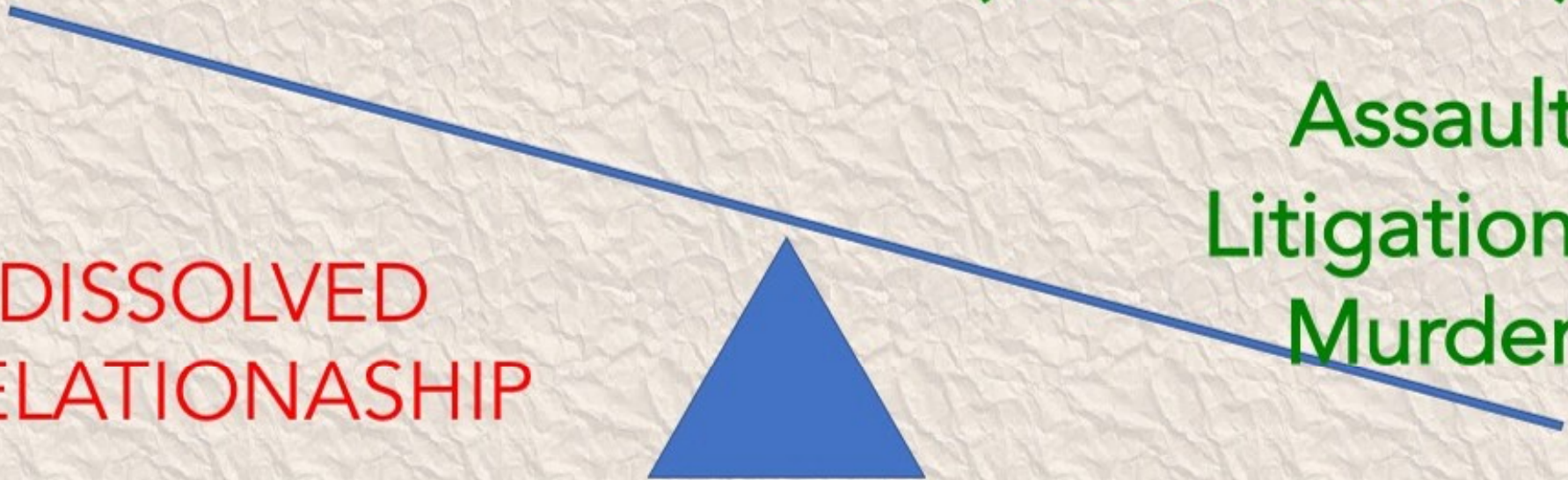


Responses to Conflict

FIGHT
(idol of control)

Assault
Litigation
Murder

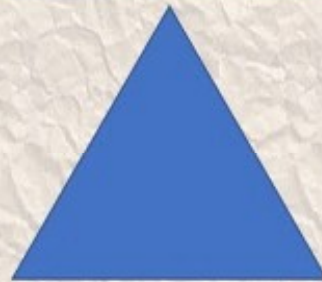
DISSOLVED
RELATIONSHIP



Responses to Conflict

GOSPEL
Overlook
Confrontation
Mediation

RESOLVE



CONFLICT

Responses to Conflict

GOSPEL
Overlook
Confrontation
Mediation





Resolving Conflict

THE 4GS OF PEACEMAKING

- 1. Glorify God**
- 2. Get the log out of your eye**
- 3. Gently restore**
- 4. Go and be reconciled**

Resolving Conflict

1. Glorify God

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)

How?

- ❖ Trust, obey, imitate God
- ❖ Serve other people
- ❖ Teach and encourage others by example
- ❖ Grow to be like Christ



Resolving Conflict

2. Get the log out of your eye

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

(Matthew 7:5)

Ask Yourself: How have I contributed to this conflict and what do I need to do to resolve it?

Resolving Conflict

3. Gently Restore

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. (Galatians 6:1)

Overlook

Go directly (Matt 18)

Bring 2 or 3 others (Matt 18)

Tell the church (Matt 18)



Resolving Conflict

3. Gently Restore

Pray for humility and wisdom

Right time and place

Eye to eye (Face to Face, Matt 18:15)

Plan what you say, and how you say it and how you respond

Ask for feedback.

Raise Biblical concern (don't preach)

Encourage restoration

Depend on God (only He can change people)



Resolving Conflict

4. Go and be reconciled

Forgive as God forgave you.

If negotiating, PAUSE

Prepare.

Affirm relationships.

Understand interests.

Search for creative solutions.

Evaluate options objectively and reasonably.



Unresolved Conflict

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:21)

- ❖ We have divine weapons.
- ❖ Control your tongue, even when others do not.
- ❖ Seek godly advisors (identify with others and don't get isolated).
- ❖ Keep doing what is right.
- ❖ Recognise your limits.
- ❖ The ultimate weapon: deliberate, focused love.



Conclusions