

# A Biblical View of Conflict and Its Resolution

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Week 13  
In our last conflict

Led by Michael Holloway

<http://www.calvaryrpc.org/SundaySchool/>  
<http://www.logicteacher.com/conflict/>

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the updated New American Standard Bible.

Some material is based on *The Peace Maker*, by Ken Sande.

# Class Goals

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- To understand what the Bible says (both explicitly and by implication) about conflict
- To learn how to distinguish between necessary and unnecessary conflict
- To learn practical, biblically-acceptable methods for resolving conflict

# The Class So Far ...

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- Week 1: Introduction & Overview
- Week 2: Internal conflict
- Week 3: Reasons for conflict
- Week 4: Conflicts in history (led by Sam)
- Week 5: Conflict as opportunity
- Weeks 6-8: Bad responses to conflict
- Week 9: Towards Resolution: Log Removal
- Week 10: Dealing with sin in others
- Weeks 11-12: Example scenarios

# Your Assignment was ...

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- Homework —

(1) Think about the examples some more

(2) Think about whether you have any questions you want us to discuss next week. If so, send e-mail with the question to **conflict@logicteacher.com**

# For Next Week

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- Homework — Decide which new adult class you will attend
  - ▶ Pride and Prejudice, Byron Snapp, auditorium: Pride and inappropriately judging others are two temptations we must constantly battle. This class will examine these temptations in light of Scripture. (Future classes will include Crime and Punishment, The Sound and the Fury, Hard Times, The S[o]n Also Rises)
  - ▶ Redemption Accomplished and Applied, Jim Chizek, lunchroom: This class will address the necessity, nature, perfection, and extent of the atonement and God's order of application to the Christian, using the book by John Murray of the same title.

Lesson title comes William Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing, Act 1, Scene I: Alas! he gets nothing by that. In our last conflict four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one: so that if he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him bear it for a difference between himself and his horse; for it is all the wealth that he hath left, to be known a reasonable creature.

# Forgiveness

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## ■ Selected Scripture

- ▶ Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- ▶ Psa 130:3-4 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.
- ▶ Luk 17:3-4 Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him.
- ▶ Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- ▶ 1Co 13:5 [Love] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered ...

## ■ Three basic principles

- ▶ Forgiveness requires an act of the will (a decision)
- ▶ When someone repents and seeks forgiveness, we are obligated to grant them that forgiveness
- ▶ Granting forgiveness often requires active effort over a period of time

# Four Promises (From *The Peace Maker*)

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- “I will not dwell on this incident.”
- “I will not bring up this incident again, and use it against you.”
- “I will not talk to others about this incident.”
- “I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.”
- *The Young Peace Maker* version
  - ▶ Good thought,
  - ▶ Hurt you not,
  - ▶ Gossip never,
  - ▶ Friends forever.

# Reconciliation (From *The Peace Maker*)

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- “Reconciliation requires that you give a repentant person an opportunity to demonstrate repentance and regain your trust. This may be a slow and difficult process ....”
  
- Three levels of reconciliation
  - ▶ **In thought:** Actively replace negative thoughts of the person with positive ones
  
  - ▶ **In word:** Actively seek to use kind words when speaking with the person, and when speaking about the person with others
  
  - ▶ **In deed:** Actively engage in loving actions towards the person

# Some Questions

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- How should I respond to an inept attempt by someone to seek my forgiveness?
- Suppose I realize that I mishandled a conflict in the past, what should I do?
- What do I do if I know that two other people have a conflict between them that needs to be resolved, but neither will admit it?
- Others?

# Tips for Preventing Conflict Review

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## ■ When you speak

- ▶ Do not just *assume* you have been understood; be sure that you have been
- ▶ Avoid unnecessarily offensive words
- ▶ Minimize your use of adjectives and adverbs
- ▶ Be aware of tone and body language, but do not rely on either to convey your message

## ■ When you listen

- ▶ Do not presume that all words are being used in the same way that you use them; seek clarification
- ▶ Try to overlook offensive words, tone, or body language; alternatively, address it immediately
- ▶ Concentrate on the nouns and verbs being spoken

# Tips for Preventing Conflict Review

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## ■ In theological matters

- ▶ Do not assume that the infallibility of Scripture implies the infallibility of your understanding of Scripture
- ▶ Recognize the existence of Christian liberty in many areas

## ■ In all intellectual matters

- ▶ Do not assume every question has only one right answer
- ▶ Understand how uncertainty builds up in chains of inferences
- ▶ Recognize differing levels of confidence in your beliefs

## ■ In all matters

- ▶ Do not judge the motives of others
- ▶ Do not assume everyone else is just like you
- ▶ Look for your own logs first
- ▶ Recognize that you are not the Holy Spirit

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- Expect others to be at least as sinful and imperfect as you are



# DYSFUNCTION

**THE ONLY CONSISTENT FEATURE OF ALL YOUR DISSATISFYING RELATIONSHIPS IS YOU.**

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- Expect others to be at least as sinful and imperfect as you are
- Remember that love for each other was singled out by Jesus as the way that people would recognize His disciples
  - ▶ **John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

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- In the absence of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, assume that your anger is *not* righteous anger
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- Remember that love for each other was singled out by Jesus as the way that people would recognize His disciples
- Honor your commitments / promises
  - ▶ **Psalm 15** O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? (2) He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. (3) He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; (4) In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; (5) He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

# Items Discussed Today

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- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation
- Some unanswered questions
- Tips for avoiding conflict in the first place