

How do we honor God in our differences?

Conflict Basics

1. Where do my conflicts come from?

- Wrongs done to me.
- Perceived wrongs done to me
- My Jealousy

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. James 4:1–2 (ESV)

2. With whom will I have my worst conflicts?

The severity of a conflict is not related to the magnitude of the offense as much as it is related to the proximity of the offender.

3. What do my conflicts reveal? My Heart

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45 (ESV)



How am I to be different in conflict?

1. Speak the truth. Don't lie.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)

- Exaggeration is a form of lying.

- Flattery is a form of lying.

truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (ESV)

- Does telling the truth mean I tell everyone everything?
- What happens in a church when people are untruthful?

2. When I get angry, avoid sin.

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Ephesians 4:26–27 (ESV)

- Is it a sin to get angry?
- Does a sin done to me justify a sin done by me?
- Should I hold my anger in or let my anger out?
- What if it is in my nature to get angry?

3. Don't steal from others but try to give to those in need.

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Ephesians 4:28 (ESV)

4. Don't use my words to tear others down but to build others up.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

- How do I change my mouth?

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! Psalm 141:3 (ESV)

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- What about correction?

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

Conflict is an opportunity for the downward spiral of sin or to live the gospel.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Ephesians 4:31 (ESV)

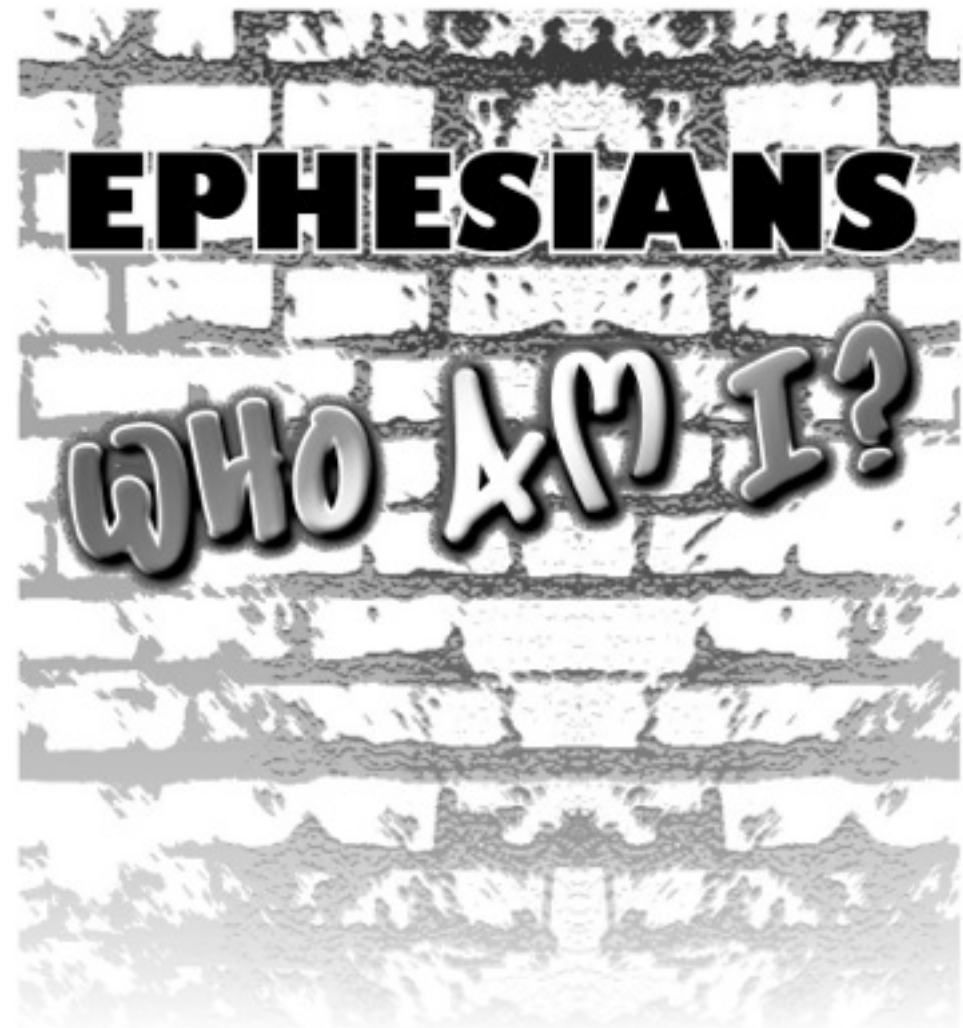
1. Bitterness
2. Wrath
3. Anger
4. Clamor
5. Slander
6. Malice



Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14–15 (ESV)

1. Speak the truth and don't lie.
2. When I am angry, work it out as soon as I can. Don't stuff it.
3. Don't steal from others. Try to give to those in need.
4. Don't use my words to hurt but to help.
5. Don't slide down the spiral of bitterness. Forgive people like Christ forgave me. When I do, I am living the gospel.



Christians and Conflict