

9 WAYS TO HANDLE CONFLICT BIBLICALLY

Chris Adams, "9 Ways to Handle Conflict Biblically: Transformed Lives," Ministry to Women (blog), LifeWay, March 4, 2005, <https://womensministry.lifeway.com/2015/03/04/9-ways-to-handle-conflict-biblically/>.

1. First, do nothing.

Think it through, pray about your response.
Ask God to help you love and value the other person.

2. Exhibit self-control.

Angry responses do not honor Christ. Respond slowly, but not out of cowardice. How does God view the other person? He is a God of wisdom and compassion. Prov. 29:11 says, "A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man (woman) holds it in check."

3. Stop, think--and pray.

How does God look at this situation? How does He view the other person? He is a God of wisdom and compassion. Seek to exemplify those traits.

4. Ask, is the issue worth pressing?

Is it worth your time and effort, or is it of no real consequence? Count the cost. If resolution does not count in the long run, maybe you should overlook it.

5. Evaluate your own attitudes, strengths, and weaknesses.

Is the problem more yours than the other person's? Are you threatened? Are you reacting to something that has to do with your childhood, an event later in life, or something that is sensitive to you?

6. Follow scriptural principles.

Talk to the person...stay in the present.

7. Ask questions for clarification.

State the problem, assimilate facts, and clearly define issues. Is it miscommunication or incorrect information? Who else or what factors are involved? Complete research before meeting.

8. Discover together things on which you do agree.

How does this situation affect the big picture—church, friend group etc.?

9. Take some time apart.

Be willing to admit mistakes. Ask for and give forgiveness. If the person is unreasonable, and she won't listen, you may need mediators. You may have to agree to disagree. You can only change yourself. You are not responsible for another's response—only yours. Not all conflict can be resolved in what we often speak of as "a peaceable manner."

Honor God and uphold truth when you respond.

One Final Word

For those who choose to be consistently disagreeable, you may be forced to say you are sorry she feels that way and don't waste time trying to fix it.

Humor is also a way of dealing with disagreeable people. It cuts the tension.