

CONFLICT RESOLUTION ROAD MAP

AM I IN CONFLICT?

Romans 12:18



CAN I OVERLOOK IT?

Proverbs 19:11



WHAT IS MY PART TO OWN?

Matthew 7:3-5



HOW CAN I SEEK RECONCILIATION?

Matthew 18:15-17



How to determine if you're in conflict:

- Has someone sinned against me? Have I sinned against someone? (Matt. 5:23-24)
- Has someone broken my trust in them?
- Have I spoken poorly about someone? (Prov. 26:20)
- Am I imagining payback, revenge, or justice? (Rom. 12:19-20)
- Am I actively avoiding someone?

Can you try to privately overlook the offense, make allowance for faults, forgive, and move on? (Eph. 4:1-6, Col. 3:12-13)

When to NOT overlook an offense:

- If the offense dishonors God (Rom. 2:23-24)
- If the offense broke a relationship (Prov. 18:19)
- If the offense is hurting others (Phil. 2:4)
- If the offense is hurting the offender (Jas. 5:19-20)

Recognize that blame rarely lies 100% with any single party. (Gal. 6:3-4)

Commit to forgiving the offender as the Lord has forgiven you. (Col. 3:12-13)

- What of your actions – however big or small – have contributed to this conflict?
- When apologizing, do so thoroughly. See reverse side for navigating an apology.
- You don't have to wait for someone to repent to forgive that person.
- See reverse side for more about forgiveness.

With a forgiving heart, gently point out another's part in the conflict. (Gal. 6:1-2)

- First, talk in private, one-on-one.
- If they don't listen and repent, try again with one or two others.
- If they don't listen and repent, try again with a group from the church.
- If they don't listen and repent, remove them from the fellowship of church membership.
- Fellowship is restored when they listen and repent.

NAVIGATING AN **APOLOGY**

1. **ADMIT WHAT YOU DID WRONG.**

Acknowledge the harm you caused without justifying or downplaying your actions. Express empathy for how your actions might have made them feel.

2. **APOLOGIZE.**

Tell them you are sorry for what you did. Be specific.

3. **ASK FOR FORGIVENESS.**

Say the words, "Will you forgive me?"

4. **ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.**

Do what you can to make it right and alter your behavior. You are not truly sorry if you continue causing harm.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **John 13:35**



FORGIVENESS IS **NOT...**

1. **EXCUSING.**

There is no excuse for sin. God will make sure all sin is paid for.

2. **DENIAL.**

Do not pretend you are not hurt, Honestly bring your pain to God.

3. **FEELING.**

Forgiveness is a decision you can make no matter how you feel.

4. **FORGETTING.**

To forgive you must remember the offense, God's justice, the cross, and God forgiving you.

5. **TRUST.**

Forgiveness is a gift, but trust must be earned.

6. **OPTIONAL.**

God commands us to forgive. Refusing to forgive is rebelling against God.

7. **RECONCILIATION.**

Reconciliation takes action from both sides; forgiveness is between you and God.