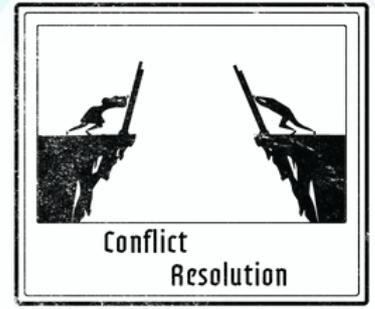


# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

## 17. CONFLICT RESOLUTION



... “Any kingdom that fights against itself is reduced to ruins. And any family or community splintered by strife will fall apart.”

*Matthew 12:25 TPT*

Popular wisdom says, “divide and conquer”. This is exactly what satan, the devil, the enemy of our souls or whatever you wish to call him, has done. He has divided us and broken relationships; therefore destroying intimacy between parents and children, between spouses and between brothers etc. By destroying family relationships, it makes building a true community an impossible task. This is the strategy that the enemy has used to prevent God's plan and purpose from becoming a reality in the church.

It is absurd to think of any type of relationship without differences or conflicts. It is logical that we have differences of opinion or tastes. It is not about looking for spaces in which there will never be conflicts but about learning to live together by resolving them and understanding that the most important thing is not our own reason. The most important thing is that the culture of the Kingdom remains and that what Jesus gave his life for, is not destroyed.

**Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

*Ephesians 4:3-6 NTV*

Striving means that we must do everything we can even if it means sacrificing ourselves to maintain unity. My own personal reason does not matter; if I look good, my family or my interests, because only He matters. May his Kingdom and His justice prevail.

**“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God[a] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today”.**

*Matthew 6:31-34 NTV*

This is so important to God that He has promised to take care of all our needs; if we take care of maintaining His Kingdom. Only in this context does it make sense to turn the other cheek, to carry the burden another mile, to die to ourselves so that He may live and to humble ourselves so that He may be exalted. If we put His Kingdom first always above ourselves; everything else will be added. This is why it is so important to understand the culture of your Kingdom to therefore be able to live in it.

When we have a conflict, our first reaction is to want to confront the person to defend ourselves and have our point of view respected. However this is not what the Lord tells us to do.

**“If your fellow believer sins against you, you must go to that one privately and attempt to resolve the matter. If he responds, your relationship is restored.”**

*Matthew 6:31-34 NTV*

As we can see, the objective of going to confront a situation is to restore the relationship; maintain unity and not allow the Kingdom to fall apart. Confrontation must occur in love, not with the intention of judging or venting but with the determination to glorify God and establish His Kingdom in the midst of confrontation. Confrontation is a tool from heaven to clarify situations, heal hearts and restore relationships.

Good faith is necessary for conflict resolution. Not always assuming the bad but understanding that in the same way that we generally do not deliberately harm others; we must believe that this is also the case with our brothers in faith. Even if they hurt us, they usually do not do it deliberately. Opening space to resolve conflict allows the light of Jesus to shine on a spot of darkness in relationships that has hindered the establishment of the Kingdom in our lives, families, church, and society.

The enemy works to divide our relationships and lead us to manifest the kingdom of darkness. The Spirit of God invites us to exercise the ministry of reconciliation and establish the Kingdom of His admirable light. It is up to us to make the decision of which kingdom we decide to establish. It is up to us and only us to choose which king we will serve.

### **Study Questions**

1. What do you think is the main obstacle in your life when resolving conflicts with your family and with the family of faith?
2. In what aspects of your life can you perceive that the enemy has tried to divide your relationships?
3. Based on what the Word says: what should you do when a fellow believer sins against you? What do you think you should do when the one who sins against you is NOT a brother in faith?

