

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**TRAINING OUR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**1. REVIEW**

A. **THE GOAL OF THIS SERIES IS TO HELP PARENTS TEACH CHILDREN, BY THEIR WORDS AND BY THEIR ACTIONS, TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN RESPONDING (NOT REACTING) TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED OR OFFENDED THEM... ESPECIALLY THEIR SIBLINGS.**

1. **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN BY WORDS AND ACTIONS TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN RESPONDING (NOT REACTING) TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED OR OFFENDED THEM IS ONE OF A PARENT'S MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

B. **REMEMBER: WHERE PARENTING IS CONCERNED... MORE IS CAUGHT THAN TAUGHT.**

C. **DISCUSS: QUESTION FOR PARENTS: HOW DO YOU COPE WITH CONFLICT WHEN YOU ARE WRONGED OR OFFENDED?**

1. **DO YOU BEGIN WITH ANGRY AND CONDEMNING WORDS?**

a. **DO YOU CRITICIZE AND COMPLAIN?**

b. **DO YOU GET EVEN?**

c. **DO YOU TELL OTHERS?**

D. **DISCUSS: HOW OUR WORDS AFFECT CONFLICTS?**

1. **NOTE: OUR CHILDREN'S WORDS AFFECT CONFLICTS IN THE SAME WAY!**

E. **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU**

There's a Gospel according to Matthew;

To Mark; To Luke; and John too.

There's another gospel that many are reading...

**The Gospel according to You.**

All teachings we find in the Bible

Are facts we know to be true;

You must live them to make them the Gospel...

**The Gospel according to You.**

Many read not the words of the Bible;

I will tell you what some of them do...

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They are reading the book you are writing...

**The Gospel according to you.**

There's Great Power In Gospel Preaching

The Bible teaches that this is true.

But the sermon most likely to influence others

**Is The Gospel according to You.**

God help us to be faithful to Jesus...

To live all His teachings so true,

So that all may see His Spirit

**In the Gospel according to You.**

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day;

By things that you do; By things you say.

Others read that gospel, whether faithless or true!

Say! What is the Gospel According To You?

- Leroy Brownlow

- F. **DISCUSS: THE BORROM LINE... HOW DO OUR TONGUES/SPEECH/ ATTITUDES INFLUENCE THE ABILITY TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS.**
1. **FOR PARENTS**
  2. **FOR CHILDREN**
2. **HOW PARENTS DEAL WITH CONFLICTS BETWEEN OUR CHILDREN IS CRUCIAL FOR ALL OF THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS.**
- A. **WE CAN TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO BECOME TATTLERS (GOSSIPS)... OR WE CAN TEACH THEM TO DEAL WITH OFFENCES AND OFFENDERS BIBLICALLY.**
  - B. **WE CAN TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO SPEAK HONESTLY AND HUMBLY WITH OFFENDERS... OR WE CAN TEACH THEM TO INVOLVE OTHERS IN THEIR COMPLAINTS.**
  - C. **WE CAN TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO GRACIOUSLY OVERLOOK MINOR FAULTS AND OFFENSES... OR WE CAN ALLOW THEM TO BECOME PRIDEFUL AND PETTY BY JUDGING AND BEING CRITICAL OF OTHERS' WEAKNESSES AND SINS.**

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- D. WE CAN **TEACH** OUR CHILDREN TO **TRUST IN GOD AND HIS DELEGATED AUTHORITY FIGURES... OR WE CAN ALLOW THEM TO BE CRITICAL AND HOLD GRUDGES WHEN THEY BELIEVE JUSTICE HAS NOT BEEN SERVED.**
- E. **DISCUSS: THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT PARENTS CAN TEACH CHILDREN TO OBEY GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS WHEN FACING THEIR OWN SINS, AND THE SINS OF OTHERS.**
1. THAT IS **TRAINING OUR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION.**
  2. AND IT **WILL AFFECT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!!!**
    - a. IT WILL HELP THEM TO BECOME:
      - 1) BETTER **SIBLINGS,**
      - 2) BETTER **FRIENDS,**
      - 3) BETTER **EMPLOYEES,**
      - 4) BETTER **EMPLOYERS,**
      - 5) BETTER **CHURCH MEMBERS,**
      - 6) BETTER **SPOUSES,**
      - 7) BETTER **PARENTS,**
      - 8) BETTER **CHRISTIANS!**
  3. **DISCUSS: ROLE PLAYING USING THE BROTHER/SISTER OFFENDED CHECKLIST**
    - A. WHEN A CHILD COMES RUNNING TO YOU WITH **A COMPLAINT AGAINST THEIR BROTHER/SISTER...**
      1. SEND THEM TO **THE CHART**
        - a. **LISTEN** TO SEE IF THEY FOLLOW THE **PROPER STEPS** OF:
          - 1) **SHARING**
          - 2) **OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD**
          - 3) **OVERLOOKING THE OFFENSE**
          - 4) **TALKING THE ISSUE OUT**
      2. **IF THE OFFENDED OR THE OFFENDER DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN A WAY THAT RESOLVES THE CONFLICT...**
        - a. CALL **EACH ONE ASIDE, ONE AT A TIME (SEPARATELY), TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE PROPER PROCESS.**
          - 1) **TEACH** THEM TO **HONESTLY EXAMINE THEIR OWN ATTITUDES.**
          - 2) **TEACH** THEM IN THE **PROPER WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR PART OF THE PROBLEM.**

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- 3) **NOTE: THIS DOES TAKE MORE TIME INITIALLY... BUT THE RESULTS ARE WORTH THE INVESTMENT!!!**
  - i. **DISCUSS: ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT TO MAKE THAT INVESTMENT OF YOUR TIME?**
  - ii. **IF YOU ARE DILIGENT TO TAKE THE TIME TEACH THE OFFENDED AND THE OFFENDER THE PROCESS WILL BECOME SECOND NATURE.**
- b. **AFTER INSTRUCTING/TEACHING BOTH SIDES (IF NECESSARY) THEN SEND THEM BACK TO THE CHART AGAIN.**
  - 1) **LISTEN TO SEE IF THE OFFENDED CHILD HAS DECIDED TO OVERLOOK THE OFFENSE.**
    - i. **OR... IF THE OFFENDED CHILD IS APPROACHING THE OFFENDER IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER.**
  - 2) **LISTEN TO SEE IF THE OFFENDER IS CONFESSING THEIR WRONG AND ASKING FORGIVENESS.**
- c. **IF... THE OFFENDED AND THE OFFENDER RESOLVE THE CONFLICT... PRAISE GOD AND THEM!**
  - 1) **HOWEVER... THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT EXCUSE THE PARENT FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO DISCIPLINE WHEN A CHILD:**
    - i. **SPEAKS UNKINDLY,**
    - ii. **HITS ANOTHER CHILD,**
    - iii. **PLAYS SELFISHLY,**
    - iv. **OR TAKES REVENGE.**
4. **IF... THE CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CONFLICT CANNOT COME TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION AFTER FOLLOWING THE STEPS OUTLINED ON THE CHART... THE NEXT STEP IS FOR PARENTAL AUTHORITY IS TO ACT AS A JUDGE IN THEIR CHILDREN'S CONFLICTS.**
  - A. **MORE ABOUT THAT NEXT WEEK!**
5. **PRACTICE: ROLE PLAYING CONFLICT RESOLUTION**