

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
TRAINING OUR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Psalm 133:1 (NASB)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers/sisters to dwell together in **unity!**

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.**
2. **STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN (USING THE CHART).**
 - A. TAKE THEM TO THE **CHART** WHEN **CONFLICTS** ARISE.
 - B. GO THROUGH THE **STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION** WITH **BOTH** CHILDREN.
 - C. **GUIDE THEM** THROUGH THE **STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION.**
 - D. **HOLD COURT (PARENTAL INTERVENTION) IF NECESSARY.**
 1. **REMEMBER: YOU ARE ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN CONFLICTS.**
 - a. **YOUR GOAL IS NOT TO RESOLVE THEM YOURSELF!**
 - b. **THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE TIME.**
3. **STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN BEFORE CONFLICTS ARISE.**
 - A. POST THE **CHART** WHERE **EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE IT IS.**
 - B. **READ THROUGH THE BOOK TOGETHER**
 - C. GO OVER THE **CHART TOGETHER**
 1. **EXPLAIN** THAT YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD **GO TO THE CHART FIRST... BEFORE THEY INVOLVE ANYONE ELSE IN THEIR CONFLICT.**
 - D. **WALK YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH AN IMAGINARY CONFLICT:**

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1. USING THE **CHART... TEACH** THE **OFFENDED HOW** THEY SHOULD **RESPOND... NOT REACT.**
 2. USING THE **CHART... TEACH** THE **OFFENDER HOW** THEY SHOULD **RESPOND... NOT REACT.**
4. **STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN AFTER CONFLICTS ARISE.**
- A. **SEND THE CHILD (WHO COMES RUNNING TO YOU TO COMPLAIN, THE OFFENDED, THE OFFENDER, OR BOTH) TO THE CHART TO SEEK RESOLUTION... WITHOUT YOUR INPUT.**
1. **LISTEN** TO SEE IF **ONE OR BOTH** OF THEM **FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE PROPER STEPS AND REACH RESOLUTION.**
- B. **IF THE OFFENDED, OR THE OFFENDER, DO NOT RESOLVE THEIR CONFLICT IN THE PROPER WAY:**
1. TAKE **EACH CHILD ASIDE, ONE AT A TIME,** AND **GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE PROCESS... TEACH** THEM.
 - a. **TEACH** THEM TO **HONESTLY EXAMINE THEIR OWN ATTITUDES.**
 - b. **TEACH** THEM **HOW TO PROPERLY RESOLVE THEIR PART** OF THE **CONFLICT.**
 - 1) **YES... THIS PROCESS IS TIME CONSUMING IN THE BEGINNING.**
 - i. **THAT'S WHY IT IS CALLED A PROCESS.**
 - 2) **HOWEVER... THE RESULTS WILL BE WORTH THE INVESTMENT.**
 - i. **FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN**
 - ii. **NOW AND FOREVER!**

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- c. **THE REAL ISSUE: AM I WILLING TO COMMIT TO THE INVESTMENT OF MY TIME TO TEACH MY CHILDREN HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS?...**
- C. **AFTER TEACHING ONE, OR BOTH, SIDES... SEND THEM BACK TO THE CHART IN ORDER FOR THEM TO SEEK RESOLUTION.**
 1. **LISTEN:**
 - a. ... TO SEE IF THE **OFFENDED** CHILD IS **WILLING** TO **OVERLOOK** THE **OFFENSE**.
 - 1) AND, TO SEE IF THE **OFFENDED** APPROACHES THE **OFFENDER** IN THE **PROPER WAY**.
 - b. ... TO SEE IF THE **OFFENDER** IS **CONFESSING** THEIR **OFFENSE** AND **ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS**.
- D. **IF THE OFFENDED AND THE OFFENDER RESOLVE THE CONFLICT ENCOURAGE BOTH FOR THEIR OBEDIENCE IN RESOLVING THE CONFLICT.**
 1. **CAVEAT: THIS PROCESS DOES NOT EXCUSE THE PARENT FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO DISCIPLINE FOR ANY SINFUL BEHAVIOR THAT OCCURRED.**
 - a. **UNKIND WORDS, NAME CALLING, SELFISHNESS, HITTING, TAKING REVENGE, TAKING ANOTHER'S POSSESSIONS, ETC.**
 - b. **PARENTS MUST TEACH THEIR CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR SIN...**
 - 1) **YES... EVEN WHEN THAT SIN HAS BEEN CONFESSED AND FORGIVEN.**

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- E. **THE FINAL STEP: PARENTS MAY NEED TO CALL A “COURT SESSION” IF THEIR CHILDREN CANNOT COME TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR CONFLICTS AFTER FOLLOWING THE PRECEDING STEPS.**
5. WHAT THE **BIBLE TELLS THE OFFENDED BROTHER/SISTER TO DO** (STEPS A-H):
- A. **DO NOT BE IN A HURRY TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE WHEN YOU ARE OFFENDED.**
- B. **Proverbs 25:8-9 (NKJV)** Do not go **hastily** to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? Debate your case **with your neighbor**, And do **not disclose the secret to another**;
1. **TELLING ANYONE WHO IS NOT THE OFFENDER CANNOT RESOLVE THE CONFLICT.**
- a. IN FACT, IT MAY **EXACERBATE** (MAKE IT WORSE) **THE CONFLICT.**
- b. **TATTLING/GOSSIPING ABOUT A CONFLICT IS A VERY SELFISH APPROACH TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION.**
- 1) **DISCUSS: THEN... WHY DO WE DO IT?**
- C. **REMOVE “THE PLANK” FROM YOUR OWN EYE... FIRST.**
- D. **Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT)** “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.
1. **QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER YOUR OWN “PLANK”:**
- a. ARE **YOU** BEING TOO **EASILY PROVOKED?**

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1) Proverbs 19:11 (NLT) Sensible people control their temper; **they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.**

b. ARE **YOU THINKING OF YOURSELF FIRST?**

1) Romans 12:10 (NASB) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another** in honor;

c. ARE **YOU REPAYING EVIL WITH EVIL?**

1) 1 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT) Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. **Don't repay evil for evil.** Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, **pay them back with a blessing.** That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it.

E. **BE A PEACEMAKER.**

1. Romans 12:17-18 (NLT2) Do all that you can to live in **peace with everyone.**

2. **QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER IF YOU ARE BEING A PEACEMAKER**

a. ARE **YOU BEING PATIENT?**

1) Ephesians 4:3 (NLT2) Make every effort to **keep yourselves united** in the Spirit, **binding yourselves together with peace.**

b. ARE **YOU SHARING?**

1) Proverbs 11:25 (NASB) The **generous man will be prosperous,** And he who waters will himself be watered.

c. ARE **YOU TRYING TO STOP A CONFLICT... OR PUNISH THE OFFENDER?**

1) Proverbs 20:3 (NASB) Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But **any fool will quarrel.**

d. ARE **YOU OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD?**

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1) Romans 12:20-21 (NASB) "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

F. **GO TO THE PERSON WHO OFFENDED YOU TO SEEK RESTORATION.**

1. **Matthew 18:15 (NIV)** "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

G. **IF THE OFFENDER REPENTS... FORGIVE THEM.**

1. **Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)** Get rid of... all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. **Instead**, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**

2. **Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)** "For **if** you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "**But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

H. **DO NOT REJOICE IN THE OFFENDER'S WRONGDOING.**

1. **1 Corinthians 13:6 (NIV)** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

2. **Proverbs 24:17-18 (NIV)** Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice, **or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from them.**

I. **IF THE OFFENDER STILL DOES NOT REPENT... GO TO YOUR PARENTS.**

1. **Matthew 18:15-17 (NASB)** "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE**

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CONFIRMED. "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church
(higher authority);

J. **REMEMBER... THE OBJECT IS TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN HOW TO RESOLVE
THEIR OWN CONFLICTS!**

1. **NOT... FOR THE PARENT TO RESOLVE THEIR CHILDRENS CONFLICTS!**

6. **NEXT WEEK... MORE OF WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE
OFFENDER'S AND THE PARENTS ROLES IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION.**

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7. SUMMARY

A. WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS THE OFFENDED CHILD TO DO:

1. **DON'T BE IN A HURRY TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE.**
 - a. **TO TATTLE OR GOSSIP.**
2. **REMOVE "THE PLANK" FROM YOUR OWN EYE.**
 - a. **BEFORE YOU GO LOOKING AT THE FAULTS IN OTHERS... TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT YOUR OWN FAULTS.**
3. **BE A PEACEMAKER.**
 - a. **PEACEMAKERS RECONCILE AND RESOLVE.**
 - b. **THEY MAKE THINGS BETTER!**
4. **GO TO THE PERSON WHO OFFENDED YOU.**
 - a. **... AND SEEK PEACE... RESOLUTION.**
5. **IF THE OFFENDER REPENTS... FORGIVE THEM.**
6. **IF THE OFFENDER DOES NOT REPENT, GO TO THE AUTHORITY/PARENT.**
7. **THE OFFENDED MUST NOT REJOICE IF THE OFFENDER IS PUNISHED.**

B. WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS THE OFFENDER TO DO:

1. **EXAMINE YOUR HEART... ARE YOU TROUBLED BY YOUR OFFENCE?**
 - a. **DID YOU DO THE WRONG THING?**
2. **CONFESS YOUR SIN TO GOD... AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU.**
 - a. **NOT... "I'M SORRY"!**
 - b. **NAME THE WRONG**

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- 1) **IN JESUS' NAME, WILL YOU PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR... (NAME THE OFFENSE)?**
3. **CONFESS YOUR SIN TO THE PERSON YOU WRONGED... AND ASK THEM TO FORGIVE YOU.**
 - a. **NOT... "I'M SORRY"!**
 - b. **NAME THE WRONG**
 - 1) **WILL YOU PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR... (NAME THE OFFENSE)?**
4. **DETERMINE TO STOP THE OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.**
5. **IN THE FUTURE, DO THE RIGHT THING.**