



RESOLVING CONFLICT



Practical Solutions to Real Peace & Harmony

The Right Approach

Matthew 7:3-5; John 1:8-9; Proverbs 28:13

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Confession brings freedom.

Review:

Week 1 – The Right Priority.

Don't gunnysack a relationship. Reconcile quickly.
Overlook or reconcile.

Week 2 – The Right Focus.

Success in conflict is not getting the right result but reflecting the right person. Reflect God.

Week 3 – The Right Heart.

The first step in any conflict is to thoroughly examine your heart.

Today, I want to talk about the best (the right) approach to conflict, but first, let's discuss what happens when we take the wrong approach.

When a dog does something he shouldn't have, what does he do?

When a young child does something wrong, what does he do?

What about an adult?

The good news: God provides a solution for the guilt and shame we carry around.

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but

whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
-- Proverbs 28:13

Confess Your Sin Using the Seven A's.

Today's lesson is a practical step in applying Matthew 7:3-5 to our lives.

Genuine confession serves as a first step toward repentance and reconciliation.

The Seven A's of Confession:

Address everyone involved.

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

WARNING: We have a natural tendency to minimize the people we need to confess to by trying to minimize what we've done wrong or minimizing the people involved.

Avoid if, but, and maybe.

Do not try to excuse your wrongs. Take responsibility.

Admit specifically.

Admit both attitudes and actions.

Acknowledge the hurt.

Express sincere sorrow for hurting the other person.

Accept the consequences.

Review Luke 15:19.

Alter your behavior.

Change your attitudes and actions.

Ask for forgiveness.

WARNING: Don't use the seven A's as a mechanical checklist.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Proverbs 28:13.**
- Meditate How You Contribute to the Conflict.**