



## **God's Priority and Our Priority**

1 Corinthians 10:31; James 1:19-20;  
Ephesians 4

### **Bottom Line**

*Conflict is an opportunity for honoring God.*

### **Introduction**

Two thousand years ago, the greatest Peacemaker who ever lived made a promise that the peacemakers would be blessed and are truly the sons of God.

Ironically, the church is one of the most prevalent places for conflict.

Conflict is a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.

### **Struggle**

If not addressed, we may just try and ignore it.

If addressed, it's always easier to simply walk away from the relationship.

We almost never understand and resolve conflict in God's way.

### **Truth**

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1.**

In conflict, we choose to **glorify God**. This is not natural to us.

- Ask yourself, "How can I reflect God in these circumstances" (James. 1:19-20).

Be sure to **confess** your own wrongdoings first (Matthew 7:5).

Always **be gentle** in correction (Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians. 4:32).

- Win the person, not the point.

**Seek peace** and reconciliation for as much as it depends on you (Romans. 12:18).

Handling conflict God's way requires surrender to the Holy Spirit, as the flesh is weak and unable to follow in this path (James 4:1-2).

When we understand the grace of Jesus Christ who has reconciled us to himself, we extend that same grace for the sake of reconciliation in our conflicts (Romans 5:8).

Those who have rested themselves into the grace and peace of Christ are the greatest peacemakers.

Will **you** *fake* peace, *break* peace, or *make* peace?

### Conclusion

God knows us better than we know ourselves and he knows that we are frail (Psalm 103:14). In any relationship between two frail humans, conflict is guaranteed. The issue isn't conflict, but rather how we go about resolving conflict. New life in Christ offers us the opportunity to bring God glory, even in conflict.

### Next Steps

- ☐ Forgive someone who has hurt you.
- ☐ Confess your wrongdoing to someone you've harmed.
- ☐ Read through Ephesians 4:17-32 five times this week.

