

RESOLVING CONFLICT JESUS' WAY

Siloam Community Church – Taipa – Northland – New Zealand - 13/7/08 – ekb

We are **unique creations of God**. *1Cor 4:7, Rom 12:4, 1Cor 12:18.*

We all **see things differently**. *Ac 15:37-39, (Barnabas and Paul).*

We all **fall short in many things**. *Jam 3:2, 1Jn 1:8.*

For these reasons conflict will occur from time to time. *Gen 13:7, Gal 2:11.*

God has given us the unity of the Spirit. *1Cor 12:12-14, Eph 4:3 – 6.*

No matter what conflict arises, **by obedience to the commands of Jesus and the Word, we are well able to keep the Unity of the Spirit, and receive God's victorious answer in His Church, family and marriage.**

As we **do what Jesus says** to us, we **maintain relationship with the Father, the Holy Spirit flows** into the conflict situation and produces the **almighty, powerful, healing solution of God in His Body.**

Jesus is saying to us, "Follow these steps and the unity of the Body of Christ will be maintained".

Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand". *Mat 12:25.* For this reason it is extremely important that we do everything necessary to keep the unity of our marriage, family, church and community.

These are the things Jesus has told us to do to maintain unity.

1. Forgive the sins and failings of your brother/sister and be forgiven. *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:21-35, Lk 11:3.* (Or have your unforgiven sins separated you from God's mercy and grace. *Is 59:1,2, Rom 6:11, Ps 66:18.*)

2. Release others from condemning judgments and evil thoughts or reap the same. *Mat 7:1,2, Rom 2:1-3, Rom 14:4,10,13, 1Cor 4: 1-7, Jam 4:11,12.* (Evaluative judgment is important and good. *1Thes 5:21, Ac 17:11, 1Jn 4:1, 1Cor 10:15.*)

3. Pray blessing upon those who sin against you. *Lk 23:34, Lk 6:27,28,36,37.* Avoid bitterness, hate and resentment. (Pray blessing on others by praying, *Ac 26:18, Col 1:9-11,* or other as appropriate.)

4. Choose to serve others in love, out of a secure identity in Christ, by the leading of the Holy Spirit. *Jn 13:4-14, Jn 13:34,35, Gal 5:13, Mat 20:20-28, Gal 6:2.*

5. Go and apologise to those you have sinned against. *Mat 5:23,24.* (Be led by the Holy Spirit in this.)

6. Take steps to sort out the problem. Go and talk it through. *Mat 18:15.* (Be led by the Holy Spirit.) Pray much beforehand. Bind satan and command him to loose the meeting. *Mat 16:19, Mat 18:18.* Pray for the release of the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit. *Lk 11:13, Eph 3:20, 2Tim 1:7.*

If these steps are obeyed, then, in most cases, unity will be maintained.

(7. In more difficult cases you may need a **mediator**. *Phil 4:3.* Or 8. in extreme cases you may need a **judge**. *1Cor 6:5,1-8.*)