

Make every effort to keep unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:3-6 (NIV)

THREE KEYS TO RESOLVING CONFLICT....

1. PUT OFF THE BEHAVIOR OF THE OLD MAN

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

2. PUT ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE NEW MAN

- **Speak the Truth**

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one body.

Ephesians 4:25 (NASB 1995)

Do I struggle with falsehood? Am I willing to speak truth?

- **Question My Anger**

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NASB 1995)

What are the feelings behind my anger? Am I angry about anything that I've yet to address?

- **Give Generously**

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Ephesians 4:28 (ESV)

Open handed or closed fist, where do I fall on that spectrum? Am I generous in dealing with others?

- **Prioritize People**

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29 (NASB 1995)

Does what I say and how I say it edify others?

- **Respond Carefully**

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with every form of malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NASB 1995)

Do I tend to react or respond? Would kindness, compassion, and forgiveness be words used to describe my interactions with others?

3. WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)