

Memory Verse

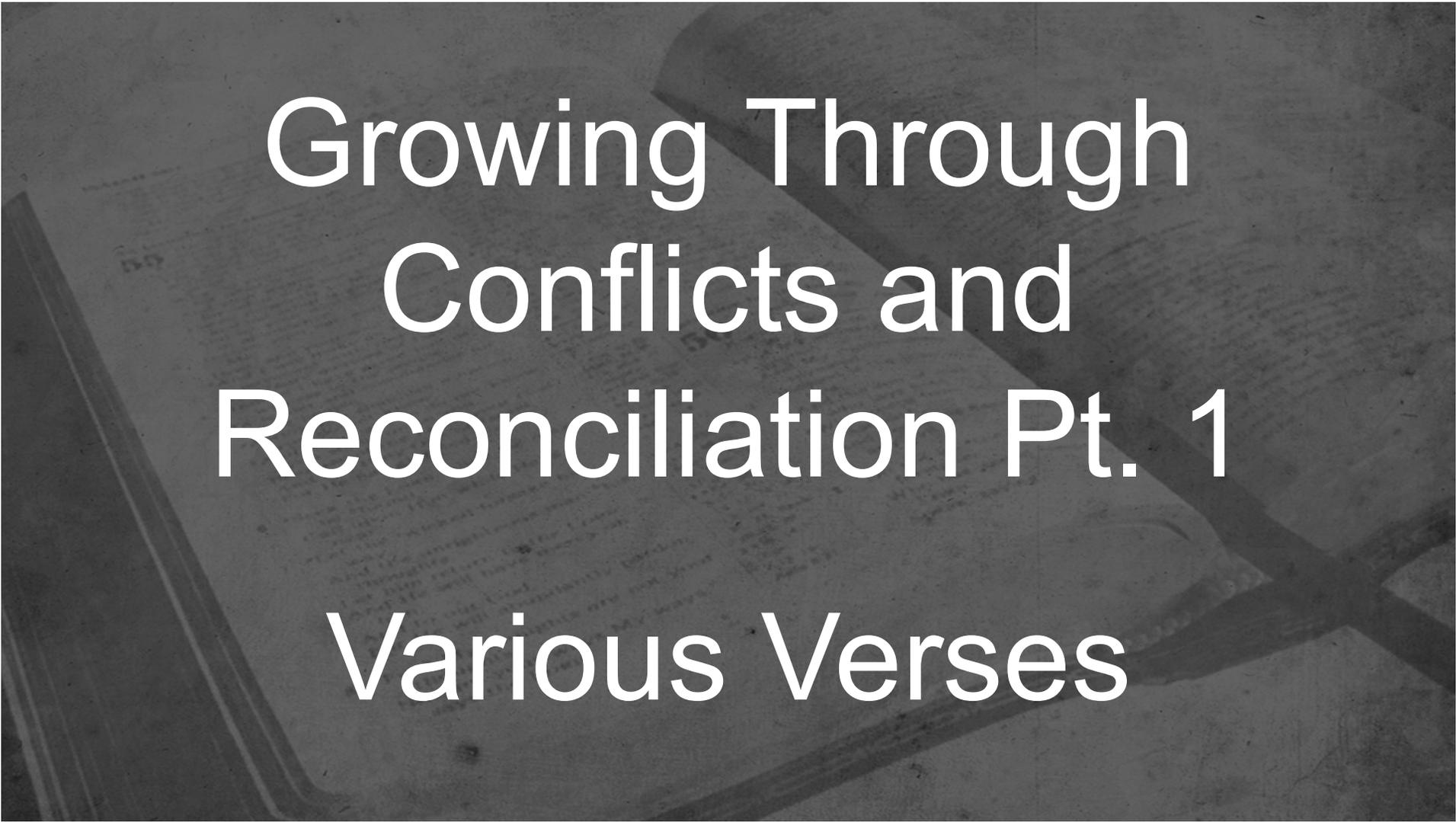
Romans 12:18

**If possible, so far as it depends on you, live
peaceably with all.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



Growing Through Conflicts and Reconciliation Pt. 1

Various Verses

His grace is *more than sufficient* for our mistakes, misunderstandings, and sins, but more and more I see the necessity of doing what He says, personally, in a family, and in the church. Many of us *deal with conflicts* at work, in family, with friends, co-workers, neighbors, and in the church. No church is perfect, because no people are perfect, but when situations arise that need to be addressed, *they must be addressed*.

We **ALL** have a *responsibility*. So whatever conflict you are facing in *life, here or else ware* I pray these messages will be helpful. **BUT** *if you don't know what God says, you can't do it.* I also want us to **grow together for God's greater purpose in reconciliation.** For the next few weeks, we will study conflict, reconciliation, maturity and the Christian life, to be equipped with God's truth.

This is a *spiritual* matter! This is a *maturity* matter! This is a *Biblical* matter! The enemy wants us to take our focus off of Christ, and cause us to fight amongst ourselves over matters that are important, but *temporary compared with eternal matters*! My prayer is that **we will grow from this, and become a healthier body**. Don't do something because / say so, **we do it because God says so in His word!**

A. What is Conflict?

A conflict is a *disagreement, struggle or battle over opposing issues, ideas, principles or beliefs*. When I say “*conflict*,” most think of a screaming match, fist fights, slaps in the face, and more. Conflict doesn’t have to be a major argument. It doesn’t have to be over a major problem. It can be a *very minor thing*. **Sometimes we make a minor issue a major problem!**

A. What is Conflict?

The Greek word “*agon*” and originally meant a *place of conflict*, but over time *changed to the conflict itself*. It meant struggle and the Latin “*conflictus*” means an “act of striking together or clashing with.” When **2 opposing parties** meet, there is a *conflict, struggle or clash*.

B. What are Types of Conflict?

Intrapersonal – conflict within ourselves. Maybe we have a decision to make and are not sure what to do. Perhaps there is a job opportunity we are hesitant to take, because we have to move.

B. What are Types of Conflict?

Interorganizational – conflict between 2 or more groups. This can be families, like the *Hatfield's and McCoy's*. It can be between countries, as in *World War 1 or 2*. It can be between companies who compete with each other, such as *fast food chains*.

B. What are Types of Conflict?

Intraorganizational – conflict within a group. This too can be within a family, company, ministry, nation, or church. There is *one group on one side and another group on another side*.

B. What are Types of Conflict?

Interpersonal – conflict between 2 or more people. This is the **biggest one!**

Why? *The biggest struggles in our lives and the church are with interpersonal conflicts!* We can all think of examples of this!

C. What Causes Conflict?

Different beliefs. This can be *theological, practical, political*, or more. This has occurred in church history, about baptism, communion and more. These *various views* have caused conflict. There are *different beliefs* about *salvation*. While there are **only 2 views** – *works or grace*, it is expressed in a variety of ways...

C. What Causes Conflict?

Different personalities. While there are *different personality types*, each of us was **born** with a *bent or type of personality*. This is who we naturally are. Our personalities are shaped by *life experiences*, good and bad; shaped by our *needs*, and whether or not those needs were met in the past and present.

C. What Causes Conflict?

They are **also** based, in part, on *physiological factors*, hormones, brain chemistry, etc. Our personality is *connected to learned behaviors*, unintentional and intentional, and *influenced* by what others do and say. Last, our personalities are shaped by *our responses to what happens to us*.

C. What Causes Conflict?

Different behaviors. This is *the way we act*. It is related to beliefs and personality, but is their *expression*. Someone steals money from a store, is caught and put in jail. His or her *behavior* is sin, so conflict occurs.

C. What Causes Conflict?

Different purposes. This is *reason we do something or direction we are going; our goals.* A Christian woman wants to go to Africa on the mission field, meets a Christian guy who works for a computer company and has his life planned out, which doesn't involve Africa.

C. What Causes Conflict?

The **root** of all conflict, is **sin**. *We want what we want, how we want it and when we want it. We want our way, in our time and on our terms! That is why conflicts occur. While sin in may not be the direct cause of the conflict, it started in the Garden of Eden.*

Without sin, there would be no conflict!

D. What are Personalities Within Conflict?

Tough and *Timid*.

A Tough person is *not necessarily prideful*, although it can be the case. The tough person is confident in what he or she says. He or she is direct, not afraid of confrontation, can be highly intelligent, or can be afraid of being wrong. Think of **Peter or Paul**.

D. What are Personalities Within Conflict?

The Timid person is not confident in what he or she thinks, though there are exceptions. This person is indirect, does **not** like confrontation and can easily be intimidated by those with *strong personalities*. This person *may or may not be prideful* and can be *intelligent*.

Timothy was *timid*.

E. Is Conflict Healthy?

Maybe. While **sin** is at the basis for conflict, sometimes it **should happen**. God is *sovereign* and has a *purpose* for it.

Examples...

E. Is Conflict Healthy?

God *uses conflict to expose weakness* in our lives, our families, or churches that need to be addressed. While it takes **time, effort, love, service, faith and discipline**, *conflicts are opportunities for God to mature us and change us.*

F. Can Conflict be Avoided?

We can avoid some conflicts, which can be good, or cause further conflict. You can **overlook something**. Most conflicts are over *silly things that get blown out of proportion*. But, **we cannot avoid every conflict in life!**

If you think you can avoid *every* conflict in life, you are **wrong!** Sooner or later *you will have a conflict*.

G. What does the Bible Say about Conflict?

Scripture is replete with examples of conflict.

Adam *willingly sinned* against God in *Genesis 3*.

Abraham... **Joseph** and his brothers... **David** faced Goliath... **Daniel** and his friends... **Jesus**...

The **early church**... **Paul** and **Barnabas**... both in *Acts 15*. In *Revelation*, **Jesus** and satan have

the **final conflict**, involving **ALL the nations of the world!** In all of it, God seeks **restoration!**

Philippians 2:1-11 - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5Have this mind among

yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of

Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



G. What does the Bible Say about Conflict?

5 principles of *growing through conflict*, and *resolution*.

1. Our desire should be to be of *the same mind in love*.
2. Be *humble!*
3. Look to what is *best for the other person first*, while *considering your position*.

G. What does the Bible Say about Conflict?

4. *Remember Jesus as our ultimate example.*
5. *There is reward for doing things God's way.*