

Text: James 4:1-12

Title: How to Respond to Conflict Like a Christian

Response 1: Identify the real reason for the conflict (1-3)

- The problem is within you

Response 2: Get over yourself (7-10)

- In other words, "submit to God"

Applications:

1. Grieve over conflict (9, 4)

2. Be merciless toward your own sin (8)

Quote: "As Christians we must of course repent of all the anger, malice, and self-will which allowed [a] discussion to become, on our side, a quarrel at all. But there is also the question on a far lower level: 'granted the quarrel...did you fight fair?' Or did we not quite unknowingly falsify the whole issue? Did we pretend to be angry about one thing when we knew, or could have known, that our anger had a different and much less presentable cause?"

Did we pretend to be 'hurt' in our sensitive and tender feelings when envy, ungratified vanity, or thwarted self-will was our real trouble? Such tactics often succeed. The other parties give in. They give in not because they don't know what is really wrong with us but because they have long known it only too well, and that sleeping dog can be roused, that skeleton brought out of its cupboard, only at the cost of imperiling their whole relationship with us. [It's an issue that] needs surgery which they know we will never face. And so we win; by cheating. But the unfairness is very deeply felt. Indeed what is commonly called 'sensitiveness' is the most powerful engine of domestic tyranny. How we should deal with it in others I am not sure; but we should be merciless to its first appearance in ourselves"

3. Trust God (10)