

Resolving the conflict. . .

Before meeting together face to face. . .

Each party involved should create a word picture that describes how they feel in the offending situation.

Exchange lists of offenses and wounds if led by the Holy Spirit. Allow enough time for all parties involved to do the preliminary work outlined above

Gather together all parties involved on neutral ground if possible.

Begin with prayer—not just a simple opening prayer, but concentrated intercessory prayer with each party praying according to the Holy Spirit for one another and for His guidance through this process. At this time, have each person pray the desire of their heart from God for themselves and the desire of their heart for the other person. Romans 12:14-21

Mediators may be present but only to help offended and accused keep the mind of God in the circumstances and clarify from a neutral position, whatever laws of God may have been broken.

It is imperative that all parties

- †desire their own personal healing and healing of relationships
- †be willing to look at their own sinful responses to situations and people's actions
- †be willing to hear God speak to them, guide them, and even discipline them. Hebrews 12

The Cost of Not Forgiving

Bitterness will take over in a persons life and defile many. Hebrews 12:15

You will be forgiven by God to the degree that you have forgiven others.
Matt 6:12

You give the devil a foothold in your life. Ephesians 4:26-27

You will be turned over to the tormenters. Matthew 18

CONFLICT RESOLUTION and ELIJAH HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Very few, if any, families have received or have had modeled for them biblical forms of conflict resolution. Therefore, when conflicts arise between individuals within families, organizations, groups, or churches, we react according to our wounds and past judgements. The results are broken relationships and the diminished power of God in the lives individuals and churches. John 17: 21-23

Biblical conflict resolution must be based on humility and the Gesthemane prayer and not on my desire for retribution, what is fair, or even my desire to be right.

One of God's stated purposes for each of His children is that they should be conformed to the image of God. Romans 8: 29

Every day we encounter people and situations that trigger in us unpleasant emotions and reactions. All such triggers are to be considered issues for healing. We are to trust that this situation causing so much pain will be used by God for our good. Romans 8:28

God in His sovereignty allows such triggering to bring us face to face with issues of wounding and/or sin that He wants to see healed in us so that we may be more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. In taking Elijah House, God will allow and even construct circumstances to show us the areas He wants to heal in us.
Psalm 118:67, 71, 75

If we blame people, objects, or circumstances for our pain and fail to look within to the area where we have been wounded or have ourselves sinned, we thwart the healing purposes of God and resign ourselves to a the same recurring pain and sin. That pain will surface in the future in new situations, with different players and different circumstances. Romans 2:1-9

God will send a kind messenger first. Then He will send the cruel messenger. Let us have our spiritual ears open to hear the kind messenger. Prov. 17:10-11

Finally. We are to remember that the accuser of the brethren is Satan and his plan is to rob, kill and destroy. That includes our unity in the body of Christ. When we do not seek reconciliation with our brother, we are not adding to the kingdom of light, we are adding to the kingdom of darkness by participating in Satan's schemes.

We, as Christians, need to be keenly aware that one of Satan's most effective weapons in the Body of Christ is strife and division. 2 Cor 2:10-11

If I am accused of offending another. . .

Humility, according to Francis Frangipane, is a godly stronghold that allows me to examine myself in light of the accusations of others before the throne of God. If even the tiniest particle of truth is found in the accusation, I am to confess to God and ask Him to cleanse me. I am to ask forgiveness of the person I have wronged and where appropriate, make restitution. 1 John 1:9, Psalm 51

I use each triggering situation as an opportunity for healing and for being changed from glory to glory by the Lord. Psalm 19:12-14

Seeking the Lord alone, I pray to be able to see the situation as He does, I ask Him to open my understanding to how I may be reaping what I have previously sown through my own sin or through any bitter root judgements that I may have made. Hebrews 4:12-16

I look within my own life and ask God to show me

✠ any patterns of wounding that I may be experiencing in this particular situation. Romans 2:1

✠ any bitter root expectancies that may be operating in this situation. Matthew 7:1-2

✠ any way that I may have done the same thing to another at a different time. Galatians 6:7-8

I enter the Garden of Gethsemane with the Lord and ask for compassion for that person who has accused me. I ask for the understanding how I may be defiling that person or how I have wounded them. I pray God's blessing and mercy upon them. Psalm 119:34, Romans 12:14-21

I open myself up to receive the truth from God and to confess and allow Him to cleanse me. 1 John 1:9, John 8:32

Because I have now been wounded by their accusations, I continue on to pray as one who has been wounded.

If I am offended. . .

I make up a list of the charges that I have against the one that I have perceived as wounding me.

I take my charges to the Lord before I take them others.

If I speak to anyone about them, I do so only with others who I know are mature enough not to take up my offense and who will be able to give wise and godly counsel. In doing otherwise, I risk the sin of murdering with my mouth and the sin of dividing the Body of Christ. Matt 18

I look within my own life and ask God to show me

✠ any way that I may have done the same thing to another at a different time. Galatians 6:7-8, Luke 6:42

✠ any patterns of wounding that I may be experiencing in this particular situation. Romans 2:1

✠ any bitter root expectancies that may be operating in this situation. Matthew 7:1-2

I seek God's wisdom in prayer holding myself open to whatever truth He will reveal no matter how painful because through this truth, I will be healed. John 8:32

I enter the Garden of Gethsemane with the Lord and ask for compassion for that person who has wounded me and also for the understanding how I may be defiling that person or how I have wounded them. I pray God's blessing and mercy upon them. Psalm 119:34, Romans 12:14-21

I open myself up to receive the truth from God and to confess and allow Him to cleanse me. Psalm 51

Before meeting with those who have offended you. . .

God has called us to be ministers of reconciliation and yet we do not know how to be reconciled to one another in this earthly realm. To understand how this hinders our ministries and walks as Christians is vitally important. Therefore, we must purpose in our hearts to listen to the Lord as He leads and directs us in the process of reconciliation, the process of conflict resolution.

Before being able to meet for reconciliation, each person is to

- read and meditate on the article, *Conflict Resolution and Elijah House Principles* and Francis Frangipane's Chapter 2 of The Three Battlegrounds, *Humility the Stronghold of God*
- provide a list of charges or offenses against the other
- provide a word picture of how they have felt wronged
- list what the other person may have against them, "How could I possibly have offended that person?" "What could they have against me?"
- list the patterns of wounding, offense in their own lives that relate to the present offense.
- list where they may have done, or are now doing the same thing that has offended them to another
- ask God to show them if they have judged the one that has hurt them. Do I think that I would never do the same thing, do I belittle them for their faults, do I condemn them?
- go before God and ask Him to show them if I have tried intentionally or subconsciously to share this offense with others and thereby defiled others.
- not meet until all motives for revenge have been replaced by a sincere desire for healing

Sample Prayer

Lord, I come to you now feeling wounded and broken. I have been wounded/offended by _____ when they _____. The pain and anger is almost more than I can bear and I admit that I want to make them pay for _____ me. But I know that this desire for revenge is not what you want from me. I cannot change this in me, but I give you permission to change my heart. Give me the grace to see this person as you do. Give me your eyes to see how I could have done the same thing as they given the right circumstances.

Lord, I know that you allow such situations in my life to bring healing to me and to others so that I can be made into your image and reflect your unconditional love to the world. Please show me where what is occurring now may be part of any patterns in my life, any judgements that I may have made against the world, you or other people. Help me to recognize any expectations I have and any patterns of reaping and sowing.

Lord, you know that when confronted with conflict, I usually (fight, flee, or _____). That is not what you want me to do. You want me to go to my brother who has offended me and speak the truth in love. I admit that my truth is only my perception that has been distorted by my experiences and wounds. Show me your truth and your understanding of what has gone on. I then also need the grace to speak the truth in love. Give me the love that I need to do so.

Lord, I bind the work of the enemy in me and in _____ that may keep us bound in bitterness and a desire for revenge. I renounce any pride that may keep me locked in a desire for revenge, to be right, to want what is fair over what you want, from hearing you and following you.

Lord, I now ask that you bless (the one who has offended me). Strengthen them with truth in their inner man and let them know the length and breadth and depth of the love you have for them.

Be with us all as we meet to see your will done in this situation and in our lives. May even this unpleasant situation bring glory to you as we submit to your will to see all healed and reconciled. Amen