



A PATH TO NAVIGATE CONFLICT

One thing I know for sure is, as a female with passion and ideas, when I work with a group of other passionate, idea-filled women, we're going to disagree sometimes. I am learning to view conflict as normal. In fact, we should fully expect conflict in relationships. (Can you think of one good relationship you have that doesn't include some disagreement every now and then? Me neither.) When conflict is handled well, it can be healthy and even a welcomed opportunity to grow toward a better relationship. Conflict isn't bad, but how we respond might be. Knowing that our own response is what matters, how do we intentionally navigate hard feelings and even harder conversations? Here is a path the Bible recommends:

START WITH LOOKING TO GOD.	LOOK AT YOURSELF.	REACH OUT AND MAKE A PLAN.	THE CONVERSATION.
<p>Even in conflict, especially in conflict, we look to how our responses are an opportunity to point to a gracious God. When we are motivated by him, and not by our anger or hurt, we will never have to regret our actions.</p> <p>Read 1 Corinthians 10:31, John 14:15, Ephesians 5:1</p>	<p>We need to examine our role in the situation and where we may have contributed to the conflict. Pray that God will reveal truth to you and that you would be open to correction.</p> <p>Read Matthew 7:5, Psalm 139:23, James 4:1-3, John 8:7</p>	<p>Meet in person with those involved in the conflict. Move toward peace and restoration without arguing or condemning. Think through your words ahead of time. Do not let more time pass than necessary before meeting.</p> <p>Read Matthew 18:15-17, Hebrews 12:15, Ephesians 4:3, 26</p>	<p>Choose an appropriate spot to meet, assume the best of the other person and be ready to listen well. Only God can truly change someone's heart, so even if your conversation doesn't end with a hug, you have done what you can to resolve the conflict. Keep doing what is right.</p> <p>Read Proverbs 11:27, Proverbs 18:13, Romans 12:18, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 1 Peter 4:19</p>
MOVING ON!		... OR NOT MOVING ON?	
<p>We will have the opportunity to extend forgiveness and receive it. We experience freedom from both. Forgiveness doesn't come naturally to us, so to truly forgive, we have to bring God into this process. Relationships built on grace will not be perfect or without conflict, but they will be refined and treasured.</p>		<p>When you can't seem to move to a place of resolution, continue to pray, read God's word and seek advice from a trusted Leader. If your attempts at resolving a conflict in private fail, ask one or two mutually respected, wise friends to meet with you and offer perspective.</p> <p>Read Matthew 18:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8</p>	