

Conflict Resolution



It Is Written

Conflict: We live in a society where conflict seems to be growing. Whether online, in the local paper, or on the daily news stations: thefts, assaults, and homicides are a common topic of interest. As various threats continue to escalate, and conflicts arise among families, friends, and neighbors the importance of Conflict Resolution is paramount. Countries outside the borders of the United States have experienced violent conflicts for hundreds of years, if not thousands. Violent conflicts within the borders of the United States, save those of early years of its development, and the Civil War between the States, were present, yet isolated, and small in number. Today, however, the borders of the United States are threatened in an increasingly violent manner, and the world at large is faced with those who attempt to terrorize the population.

In the midst of these conflicts the one disturbing factor is that there are no men of wisdom, and/or strength standing up to the challenge, and that statement is not a reflection on the many men and women, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters that have fought and died, or are still doing so for the protection of the nation: the statement is predominately laid at the feet of the leadership.

Once again, there are a select few, in the realm of leadership that appear to have the wisdom and fortitude to confront the conflicts presently being faced in our society, but they are few, and without the support of the many are limited in what they can do. We live in a society, as many have throughout the ages that call evil good and good evil. A society where those who stand up against anarchy, chaos, and tyranny, are targeted as the oppressors, whereas the lawless are viewed as the oppressed. President Reagan once said, "We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions." During the Reagan years, and the University uprisings, President Reagan, also said, "All of it began the first time some of you who know better,

and are old enough to know better, let young people think that they have the right to choose the laws they would obey as long as they were doing it in the name of social protest.”

I am not in the arena where the major battles are being fought, except for the areas of life in which I am intimately involved. I do not attempt to sit in judgment on those in the heat of the battle, to whom the consequences of their choices are enormous in comparison, but I do understand that those who are in the heat of the battle would have a greater opportunity to overcome the works and devices of evil men if I would simply do my part in the small arenas in which I do have an obligation to be the man. The apostle Paul told the church in Corinth, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). Our nation, however, can more readily be described, by the charge leveled against Israel, saying, “As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they that lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (Isaiah 3:12). When Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, and its enemies “conspired all of them together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion therein,” Nehemiah did not did not kow tow to them, but rather, “we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them...And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come into the midst of them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease...Therefore set I in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in the open places, I set there the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, who is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses” (Nehemiah 4:13-14).

In the realm, and arena of personal responsibility we want to direct our attention to a Conflict which began first with personal obligations and consequences, but would also aid many in their endeavors to overcome the battles of life that infest the world through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the vainglory of life. In short, if a man does not take his personal stand, so “that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error” (Ephesians 4:14), then truly, as stated by Eldridge Cleaver, “There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you’re going to be part of the problem.” That starts, right here! What is your plan to Resolve the greatest Conflict in life?

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward hungered. And the tempter came and said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him into the holy city; and he set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou art the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and, On their hands they shall bear thee up, Lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, Again it is written, Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and he said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:1-10).

Adhering to the word of God, doing that which is written, should start early, and continue through life, therefore, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. Servants, be obedient unto them that according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not in the way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as unto the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that whatsoever good thing each one doeth, the same shall he receive again from the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, and forbear threatening: knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him. Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the

word of God: with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication..." (Ephesians 6:1-18).