

Five keys for handling conflict:

Key # One: SYMPATHY

1 Peter 1:8 "Be sympathetic"

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

James 1:19 (NIV) "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."

How would you rate yourself on sympathy? How would your spouse rate you on sympathy? Would your spouse say, "My spouse is only interested in himself or herself - then give yourself a "1". If your spouse would say, "My husband/wife is always understanding" give yourself a "9".

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Key # Two: LOVE AS BROTHERS:

1 Peter 3:8 "Love as brothers"

Romans 12:10 (NIV) "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."

Romans 15:7 (NIV) "Accept one another just as Christ accepted you."

How do you rate yourself on brotherly love? If you say, "I'll love you if ____" then give yourself a "1". If you can say, "I accept you just as Christ accepts you", then give yourself a "9".

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Key #Three: Be COMPASSIONATE.

1 Peter 3:8 "Be compassionate."

Colossians 3:12 (NIV) "Clothe yourselves with compassion."

Ephesians 4:29 (NASB) "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."

1 John 3:18 (Phillips) "My children, we should love people, not only with words and talk but by our actions and true caring."

Would the people closest to you say that you're a very giving person? Give yourself a "1" if your favorite phrase is "How can you make life easier for me?" and give yourself a "9" if you're constantly looking for ways to make life easier for the people you love.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Key # Four: Show HUMILITY.

1 Peter 3:8 "Be humble."



Christian Conflict
1 Peter 3:8-12

Prov. 13:10 (YLT) "Pride only leads to arguments".

Romans 12:3,16c (NKJV) "Through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ... Do not be wise in your own opinion."

Galatians 6:2-3 (NKJV) "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thins himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

Prov. 28:13 (Phillips) "Anyone who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful, but if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance."

How do you rate on humility? Give yourself a "1" if the words "I was wrong" have never passed your lips. Give yourself a "9" if you can easily ask for help and admit wrong.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Key # Five: Be MERCIFUL.

I Peter 3:9 (Phillips) "Never pay back one wrong with another or pay an angry word with another one. Instead pay back with a blessing, so that you inherit a blessing yourself."

Colossians 3:13 (NASB) "Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

I Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) "Love keeps no record of wrongs."

How do you rate yourself on mercy? If you stockpile ammo to attack others then give yourself a "1". Give yourself a "9" if you're quick to offer forgiveness, quick to let go of grudges.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Application:

Review your answers to the 5 keys you've studied this morning.

What has God revealed to you about yourself?

What has God revealed to you about Himself?

What adjustment do you need to make in your life because of your encounter with Him this morning.

What one thing will you do to accommodate God's will in your life?

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."**

