



Ambassadors
of
Reconciliation

Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation

A Webinar Bible Study

Handout for Lesson 1

Use this handout to prepare for discussion questions. You'll answer them either in the chat box or in small group breakout rooms. This handout also prepares you for looking up a few Bible passages.

Beginning Reflections

Answer in the chat box: Name some ways that people use to identify themselves.

Who am I by Nature?

Following the video, prepare to discuss these questions in the small group breakout room:

1. Where does a child learn to handle things this way?
2. What happens to that nature as we become adults?
3. How should your understanding of this nature affect how you see yourself in conflict?

Bible passages to look up: Psalm 51:5
Isaiah 64:6

Who am I in Christ?

Bible passages to look up: Galatians 4:6-7
Ephesians 2:12-13

Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation

Answer in the chat box: Which is more difficult: *Conflict Resolution* or *Reconciliation*?

Answer in the chat box: What makes it more difficult?

Case Study (see next page for the Case Study and Small Group Discussion Questions)

Homework Assignment for Next Week

Meditate on these Bible passages:

- Isaiah 43:1-4
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- 1 John 3:1

Be prepared to discuss these questions next week in a small group breakout room:

1. What insights have you gained from these verses?
2. What difference did *remembering whose you are* make for you this week?

Case Study

Robert and Emily, adult siblings, disagree on how to provide care for their elderly mother, Esther. Esther has been living alone in her home, but her health has been declining over the last few years. Five weeks ago she fell and broke her hip. After a week in the hospital, she has been in a recovery center receiving care and therapy. Esther is ready to be released but cannot stay in her home alone anymore.

Years before (while Dad was living), Robert promised both his parents that he would never put them into a nursing home. Robert wants Mom to live with her children trading every other month – one month with Robert and his wife, and the next month with Emily and her husband. Emily believes that Mom should be moved into a permanent nursing facility where she can receive 24-hour care. Emily is worried that neither of them can provide the kind of care their mother needs. Esther wants to move back into her home. She knows that is not possible now, but she hopes that soon she can return home.

Emily and Robert have had a number of disagreements over the care of their mother, but on the day before Esther was to be released, they both lost their tempers in front of the social worker. Emily called her brother stupid and unrealistic. Robert accused his sister of being non-caring and unwilling to sacrifice for their mother. No decision was reached, and they left the social worker's office still bickering.

Esther, Robert and his wife, and Emily and her husband are all Christians.

Discussion Questions

Both Emily and Robert have contributed to their conflict. For this small group exercise, put yourself in Robert's role. Prepare to discuss these questions in the small group breakout room:

1. How has Robert contributed to this conflict? Who has been affected by his sinful thoughts, words, or actions?
2. In spite of Robert's sinful nature, how does our heavenly Father view:
 - a. Robert?
 - b. His sister, Emily, with whom he is in conflict?
3. In light of how your heavenly Father views both brother and sister:
 - a. What is Robert's worth to God?
 - b. What is the Emily's worth to God?
4. Review 1 John 3:1. Whose are you, Robert? What comfort does your relationship with God give you in the midst of this struggle?
5. In Christ, we are called as new creatures to put away our "old self" and put on our "new self" in Christ.
 - a. How can Robert put away his old self in this conflict?
 - b. How can Robert put on his new self in Christ?
 - c. What would Robert's contrition and repentance look like?

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