

The Dog House: Solving Family Conflict

James 4:1-3

Outline

Introduction: Family conflicts have troubled every home since the beginning of time. What does the Bible say about handling the thorny issues that crop up? Today's message will lift the cover off troubles and give a healthy and healing dose of light.

The source of conflict: Where do family conflicts come from? James 4:1-3

Two basic types of conflict:

The war is inside - Matthew 15:1-20

Bigger issues that need solving:

1. Work toward clear communication and understanding.
2. Create an atmosphere of acceptance and respect for everyone.
3. Develop a team approach to family life.
4. Develop an honest family atmosphere that honors prayer.
5. Develop a learning family atmosphere that fosters growth.
6. Use your home as a spiritual lighthouse in the neighborhood and beyond.

A divided heart declares war on God - James 4:4-6

Ten wise ways to resolve family conflict:

1. Don't attempt to cover up conflict by avoiding it, denying it or diminishing it. ***Proverbs 14:8***
2. Deal with anger promptly and openly. ***Proverbs 16:32; 19:19***

3. Create space for understanding and even disagreement. ***Proverbs 16:22; 20:5***
4. Attack the problem, not the person. ***Proverbs 11:12; 17:19***
5. Stay on the subject. ***Proverbs 21:23***
6. Don't exaggerate by saying, "you never" or "you always." ***Proverbs 19:2***
7. Don't manipulate others by playing the part of a victim. ***Proverbs 10:10***
8. Be humble and take responsibility for your faults. ***Proverbs 16:2, 18***
9. Forgive others as Christ forgave you. ***Proverbs 10:12; Matthew 6:12***
10. Take all wrongs to the cross and leave them there. ***Proverbs 19:11; 1 Peter 2:24***

Conclusion - Proverbs 16:7:

When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.