

October 11, 2015
I Peter 3:8-11

DIFFUSING CONFLICT- Part 2

I. Introduction:

Finally, all of you, **live in harmony** with one another; **be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate....**" I Peter 3:8

Attitude or virtues to bring about harmony in relationships:

- Sympathy
- Loyalty
- compassion

A. _____ "Be Humble" (vs. 8)

- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in **humility** consider others better than yourselves." Philippians. 2:3
- Our Example of Humility: **Jesus** (Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:5-11)
- "Love is not proud." 1 Corinthians 13:4
- "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." Proverbs 13:10

Humility is being honest about our weakness, our needs, our failures.

B. _____

"**Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult**, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." I Peter 3:9

When hurt we have a choice: Retaliation or Resolution

Our Example of being Merciful: Jesus

I Peter 2:21-23; Matthew 5:38-45

- Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13
- Love keeps no record of wrongs. I Corinthians 13:5

C. _____

For "Whoever would love life and see good days **must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech**. [11] He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

- "Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword but wisely spoken words can heal." Proverbs 12:18

POINTS TO PONDER
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Open It:

1. *What childhood fight do you remember most vividly?

2. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being nerves of steel), how good would you say you are at controlling your temper?

Explore It:

3. *What incredible challenge did Peter give his readers? ([3:8-9](#))

4. *Why did Peter instruct his readers to live at peace with everyone? ([3:9](#))

5. *What must a person do who wants to love life? ([3:10-11](#))

Get It:

6. When is it hard for Christians to live in harmony with each other? Why?

7. *When are you tempted to return evil with evil and insult with insult? Why?

8. Why do our words get us into so much trouble?

9. *What concrete actions can we use to promote harmony?

Apply It:

10. What can you do over the next few days to promote harmony between you and the believers you know?

11. *What response could you use when you are mistreated or insulted?