

October 4, 2015
I Peter 3:8-9

DIFFUSING CONFLICT

I. Introduction:

“Live in harmony with each other” I Peter 3:8a

II. Attitudes that Diffuse Conflict:

A. _____
“be sympathetic” vs. 8

Sympathy meets two basic human needs.

1. It meets our need to be _____
2. It makes us feel like our feelings are _____

How can I become more sympathetic?

Learn to _____
James 1:19 "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."

B. _____
“love as brothers” vs. 8

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

“Accept one another just as Christ accepted you.”
Romans 15:7

C. _____
"be compassionate." Vs. 8

Two ways we demonstrate compassion:

1. By what we _____ to other people:

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
Ephesians 4:29

2. By how we _____ towards each other.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." I John 3:18

III. Conclusion and Application:

How are you doing in these areas of being sympathetic, loyal, and compassionate? As we take on these attitudes and virtues, we become more like Christ.

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](#))

Get It

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

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

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

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

Apply It

9. What can you do over the next few days to promote harmony between you and the believers you know
10. *What response could you use when you are mistreated or insulted?
11. What step can you take this week to become more prepared to answer questions about your hope and faith in Christ?