

## Pest Control Exterminating Conflict

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Matthew 7:24-27 24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.

**Matthew 5:9** “God blesses those who are peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God”

**Two misconceptions about peacemaking:**

**It’s not avoiding. It’s not appeasing.**

Matthew.18:15-17 15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

### 7 Steps to resolve Conflict...

1. Make the First Move.
2. Ask God for Wisdom.
3. Begin with what’s my fault.
4. Listen for their Hurt & Perspective.
5. Speak the truth in love.
6. Fix the problem, Not blame.
7. Focus on Reconciliation.

### 1. MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

Matthew 5:23-24 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

- **Where do we find the courage to reconcile? God’s Spirit!**

2 Tim. 1:7 “God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline!”

### 2. ASK GOD FOR WISDOM

James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

### 3. BEGIN WITH WHAT’S MY FAULT

James 4:1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?

**Note: The conflict is INSIDE YOU!**

Matthew 7:3,5

“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”

### 4. LISTEN FOR THEIR HURT & PERSPECTIVE

James 1:19

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

Phil. 2:4-5 “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

### 5. SPEAK THE TRUTH TACTFULLY!

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

“Proverbs 12:18 Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

Ephesians 4:29 Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

### 6. FIX THE PROBLEM, NOT THE BLAME!

Colossians 3:8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

### 7. FOCUS ON RECONCILIATION.

### 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

**Commit to becoming an agent of reconciliation!**

### My Challenge:

1. It is time to deal with our internal conflict.
2. Is there someone you need to sit down and have a conversation with.
3. Choose to be a Peace Maker!