

Logging Made Easy

Number two in the series: *Make Peace Not War*
Biblical tools for handling conflict
January 9 & 10, 2010

Matt 7:3-5 "Why do you look at the speck of saw-dust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

When you approach conflict with an axe to grind, it's natural to come out swinging. But before you have *that* talk with *that* person, sit down and have a little talk with yourself. Ask these questions:

1. Is there a log obstructing my view that I must deal with first?

•What is _____ in this conflict?

•How do my faults come into play?

*When we deny the _____,
_____ is blocked by subjectivity.*

*When we neglect _____,
_____ is eclipsed by hypocrisy.*

•What should I do about how I've contributed to this conflict?

_____!

_____!

2. Is slash and burn clearcutting really the method to use?

•Is this the _____?

•Is this the _____ and place for cutting?

•Am I the _____ for this job?

•Is _____ inadequate?

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Can you imagine how Christ's original audience would have felt about the illustration recorded in Matt. 7:3-5? Do you think the people who first heard this responded with anger, confusion, indifference, or conviction? How did these words first affect you?

2. We hide behind simple explanations and avoid reality, which is far more complex. It is natural to think that everything wrong in our relationships is someone else's fault. But this isn't true. What is true about where the blame lies in the conflicts we face?

3. How do our issues impact the way we see others? Give examples.

4. Check out Rom. 2:1-4. This describes the people Paul was writing to long ago and far away. It is true for us as well? What should we do about this painful picture?

5. There is power in knowing, accepting, and acting on the truth. What verses on confession and repentance jumped out at you? Why?

6. There are times when it not necessary to confront. See Prov. 19:11 and 1 Pet. 4:8. What application of these verses comes to mind?

7. Eph. 4:2 and Col. 3:13 mention bearing with each other. Read them in context and decide what this means and what it doesn't mean.

8. What qualifies you to correct others? What disqualifies you? Is there any temptation to use some of these verses as a cop out to avoid responsibility? Where can you turn for the strength to follow through with what needs to be done? Do so.

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When you approach conflict with an axe to grind, it’s natural to come out swinging. But before you have *that* talk with *that* person, sit down and have a little talk with yourself. Ask these questions:

1. Is there a log obstructing my view that I must deal with first?

•What is my part in this conflict?

•How do my faults come into play?

*When we deny the obvious,
clarity is blocked by subjectivity.*

*When we neglect responsibilities,
credibility is eclipsed by hypocrisy.*

•What should I do about how I’ve contributed to this conflict?

Confess!

Repent!

2. Is slash and burn clearcutting really the method to use?

•Is this the right hill?

•Is this the right time and place for cutting?

•Am I the right person for this job?

•Is my strength inadequate?