

Introduction:

How important is living in harmony?

Jesus prayed for it -

John 17:20-23

Scripture commands it -

Romans 12:16
Romans 14:19
Romans 15:5-6
Ephesians 4:3
Philippians 1:27
Philippians 2:1-2

The Church practiced it -

Acts 2:46
Acts 4:32-35

The world was transformed by it -

Acts 2:47
Acts 6:7

What causes disharmony or conflict?

Growth / Unmet needs -

Acts 6:1-6

Theological differences -

Acts 15:1-15

Philosophical differences -

Acts 15:16-41

Relationships Under Pressure (Part 3)

Keeping it Together When the World's Falling Apart

How to Resolve Conflict in Relationships Romans 12:16

Personality Differences -

Philippians 4:2-3

Carnality -

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

- Critic
- Martyr
- Wet blanket
- Steam roller
- Gossip
- Control freak
- Back stabber
- Cold shoulder
- Volcano
- Sponge
- Workhorse
- Chameleon

How can we restore harmony in relationships?

1. Refuse to _____ disunity.

Romans 12:18

“...as far as it depends on you...”

- Don't avoid it!
- Don't procrastinate!
- Don't delegate it!
- Don't rationalize it!

2. Embrace _____ as normal and unavoidable. John 16:33
3. Be the _____ in conflict resolution.
- When it is perceived to be **your** fault. Matthew 5:24
 - When you perceive it to be **their** fault. Matthew 18:15
4. Deal with _____ before you deal with them. Luke 6:41-42
5. Meet together _____ and outline the issue!
- The _____ - Calmly describe what you perceive the other person is doing to cause the issue.
 - The _____ - Tell how this makes you feel.
 - The _____ - Tell why this is important to you.
 - The _____ - What are we going to do to fix it?
 - _____ their response and feedback.
 - _____ down the desired action to be taken.
 - _____ a specific time to revisit the issue.
 - _____ by both sides to put the issue in the past once solved.

6. If resolution does not occur, follow the Biblical guidelines of Matthew 18

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

Conclusion:

"How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133:1

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a relationship in your life that is out of harmony?
2. Why is it so important we guard the unity of Christ's Body, the Church? What is at stake?
3. Why do you think following God's pattern of conflict resolution is so difficult for us?
4. What would trusting God in obedience look like in your life in response to this message?

See: "*Making Peace At Home*"

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/200404/making-peace-home>