

Part 6 - **My Way or the Highway**

“Resolving Conflict in the Home”

... Theme

Jesus, one time, in giving an illustration about the home talked about the danger of conflict in the home.

Mark 3:25 (tlb) *A home filled with strife and division destroys itself.*

• **The reason for conflict**

James 4:1 (ncv) *Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.*

The reason for conflict is our competing desires. *“I want what I want, and you want what you want.”*

• **How to resolve conflict**

1. Talk to God about the conflict

James 1:5 (tlb) *If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you.*

2. Change your focus from ourselves

Philippians 2:3-5 (tlb) *Don't be selfish... Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing. Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 7:3-5 (ncv) *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.*

3. Establish some ground rules

Ephesians 4:31 (tnb) *Stop being men, bad tempered and angry, quarrelling, harsh words and the dislike of others should have no place in our lives.*

If you look closely at this verse it helps us to recognize that these ground rules are based on the one characteristic God wants us to have in our live.

- Instead of being mean, be kind.
- Instead of being bad tempered, be patient.
- Instead of anger, try honesty and love.
- Instead of harsh words, use gentle words.

4. Go and make peace

Matthew 5:23-24 (ncv) *So when you offer your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person, and then come and offer your gift.*

Conflict is not resolved accidentally. It has to be deliberately dealt with. But you go and make peace.

...Take home point

Don't walk out. Reach out for help. Take advice. Seek mature Christian counselling.

Proverbs 13:10 (tlb) *Pride leads to arguments, be humble, take advice, and become wise.*

A question we all from time to time have to face in our lives is, *“would I rather have a satisfying marriage or just pretend that I do?”* You don't have to pretend. There are people who can help.