

Chapter 4: "Is This Really Worth Fighting Over?"*

God does not _____ correction.

Matthew 7:1–5 does not forbid lovingly correcting our brothers and sisters; it forbids "premature and improper correction." (79)

Issues that form conflicts

- 1) _____ issues; solved with cooperation and negotiation.
- 2) _____ issues; solved by overlooking or the process of confession / correction / forgiveness.

Overlooking minor offenses

Often the best tactic when sinned against is to overlook this offense against you. (Proverbs 19:11; 17:14; 1 Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

Two conditions:

- 1) Should not create a _____ between you and the other person.
- 2) Should not be causing serious _____ to God's reputation, to others, or to the offender.

Overlooking sin is _____ not _____.

"To truly overlook an offense means to deliberately decide not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into pent-up bitterness." (83)

Steps (principles) to help change your attitude. (Philippians 4:2–9)

- 1) _____ in the Lord always.
- 2) Let your _____ be known to all. (cf. Galatians 6:1–2)
- 3) Replace _____ with _____.
- 4) See things as they really _____. (cf. Proverbs 11:27)
- 5) Practice what you've learned.

Count the _____ of conflict. (Matthew 5:26–27)

Remember God's _____ when demanding our _____. (Luke 6:36)

"When exercising a right allows you to avoid a moral responsibility or to take unfair advantage of others, you have not acted justly in the eyes of God, regardless of what a court might say." (92)

Biblical examples of those who gave up rights.

- Abraham (Genesis 13:5–12)
- Joseph (Genesis 50:19–21)
- David (2 Samuel 16:5–12)
- Paul (1 Corinthians 9:3–15)

- Jesus (Matthew 17:24–27; 26:53–54)

Examples of appropriate assertion of personal rights.

- Paul asserted rights as a Roman citizen and asked for civil authorities to apologize for mistreating him. (Acts 16:35–39)
- Paul quickly asserted his rights to avoid flogging and secure an appeal. (Acts 22:25–29; 25:11)

When to give up rights or assert rights?

Rights are really _____ given by God to be used for _____ glory and to _____ others. We must _____ these rights to honor _____. We should never twist this to our _____.

* Sande, Ken. *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004.