

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT #1

September 27, 2020 Matthew 5:21-26

Conflict is inevitable but the key is knowing how to deal with it. That is what salty Christian do. We live in an age of rage. But in God's kingdom...

1. Control your temper or you might become a murderer

- "You have heard...'You shall not murder...' but I tell you..." Math. 5:21
- Are you slow to become angry? James 1:19-20
- Do you deal with your anger quickly? "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..." Eph. 4:26-27
- The battle begins in our minds (Matthew 5:22). See also Gen. 4:3-7 (Cain).
- First you have angry thoughts. Then you use angry words like "Raca," and "You fool." 5:22 God will hold you accountable for your words.

2. Be a peacemaker and seek reconciliation

- The context of Matthew 5:23-24 is worship. But it could happen anytime you are listening to the Holy Spirit.
- A person comes to mind you are having a conflict with. Maybe you called them an idiot or worse.
- God cannot work in your life when you refuse to forgive and seek reconciliation. Matthew 5:9
- **Stop** what you are doing. **Go** to that person you have wronged and ask forgiveness. Do not defend yourself or make excuses.
- **Do it now!** Don't delay. "Settle matter quickly." 5:25
- Think of Jesus on the cross. He did whatever it takes to reconcile us to God.