

Understanding and resolving family conflicts:

1. There is no such thing as the perfect home (1 Peter 5:8-9)

- a. Traps of the Devil: One of the traps many Christian families fall into is the idea that they have to have the perfect family, or the perfect home
- b. They will look at other people and their families. They want to try to have a home that is like theirs.
 - i. People only let you see what they want you to see.
 - ii. When you visit someone's house, or see their posts on Facebook, you only see what they want you to see—a perfect home
 - iii. You don't see the arguments, the conflicts, the struggles to pay their bills, the emotional problems they have.
 1. You cannot know these things until you have lived with them for some time.
- c. Do not compare your life and home situation to others, because you do not know what they are struggling with. (Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5)
- d. It's one thing to strive toward a good place, but it is another thing to be discontent and compare your life to someone else's.
- e. The danger can happen when a husband starts comparing his wife to other women, or when a woman starts to compare her husband to other men.
 - i. At no point in time should you start looking at other people in a marriage and their lives or relationships.
 - ii. They want you to see a perfect relationship, but the grass isn't always greener on the other side.
 - iii. They have their problems and struggles just like everyone else.
- f. Many relationships will break up when a wife starts to get too friendly with other men who "treat her better, or different" than her husband does.
 - i. Men sometimes will see this discontent as a weakness in a marital relationship and capitalize on it to steal her heart. (2 Samuel 15:1-6)
 - ii. She starts to give her heart to the man, and pretty soon, divorce happens.
 - iii. Sometimes this happens with men, but with men, it is usually about carnal lust than it is about the emotional relationship.
- g. A wife will sometimes get the idea that she is not a perfect wife because of some pre-determined ideas of what a perfect wife is supposed to be (Genesis 2:18)
- h. A perfect wife is one that is able to help lighten the load of her husband.
- i. God never called you to be the perfect wife for another man, He called you to be a help meet for the man you married.
- j. The wife should not be pulling in different directions as her husband, she should be trying to help him to meet the goals of the family.

2. Biblical authority within the home

- a. The Bible addresses what role each person is allowed to have within the home.
 - i. God calls the Man—the husband
 1. to be the head of the household—A Picture of Christ (Ephesians 5:23)
 2. To be the spiritual leader—A Picture of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)
 3. To be the lawgiver—A Picture of Father (1 Peter 3:5-6)

- ii. God's role for a man is to love his wife as he loves himself and God (Ephesians 5:25, 33; 1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:9).
- iii. God calls the woman, the wife to be obedient to her husband (1 Peter 3:1-6; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:11-15)
 - 1. The reason why God set up this Biblical order is because of two reasons:
 - a. Adam was formed first, and Eve came from Adam's rib
 - b. Eve was deceived, Adam was not (Genesis 3)
 - i. Adam laid down his life to be with Eve for all eternity
 - ii. If Adam decided not to eat of the fruit, Eve would have been cast out of the garden and died, while Adam would have lived in the Garden of Eden forever without her. It was a picture of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. (Read: 1 Samuel 25:1-42)—Abigail, married to a lost person while she was a Christian.
- iv. God calls the children to obey their parents (Colossians 3:20)
 - 1. Ephesians 6:1-3
 - 2. The only role children have is to obey their parents
 - 3. A parent can foster a spirit of rebellion in the home when
 - a. They see hypocrisy (rules for me, but not for thee) (Luke 11:46)
 - b. The wife is seen arguing with her husband
 - i. Children learn to obey or to rebel against authority by example
 - ii. If they see the mother not obeying her husband, then the children will start to pick up that spirit and become rebellious themselves.
 - iii. They learn obedience by example, and rebellion by example
 - c. The father disciplines the child in anger, or does not discipline them at all. (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 22:24-25; Ecclesiastes 8:11; Proverbs 22:15; 23:13; 29:15; 1 Samuel 3:10-18)
 - d. It is biblical for a child to be disciplined by his father, but not in wrath. There is a difference between discipline and abuse.
 - i. The purpose is to help him to understand that there are bad consequences to wrong actions, not to hurt him or discourage him.
 - ii. Children who are abused will grow up to hate their parents and leave their faith
 - e. Children are under their parent's authority except for two conditions:
 - i. They get married and start their own home (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7; Ephesians 5:31-32)
 - ii. They consent with their parents to leave when they are of age.

3. **The four personality types (1 Peter 3:7):**

a. In trying to understand how to deal with any person, you need to understand that there are different personality types (Ezekiel 1:10):

i. **PUSHY—TYPE A (THE FACE OF A LION)**

1. Achiever, overachiever
2. Likes to be in charge or in control
3. Goal oriented
4. Likes to do things their own way
5. Works a lot, or very hard to achieve a goal
6. Independent person, likes to think for him or her self

<u>STRENGTHS</u>	<u>WEAKNESSES</u>	<u>JOB TYPES</u>
Takes charge	Domineering	Executives
Fast paced	intolerant	managers
Demands independence	stubborn	CEOS
passionate	Abrupt	Police or military
ambitious	Tough	Business owners
Entrepreneurial	Easily angered	Politicians
	Won't admit he's wrong	

ii. **PLEASERS—TYPE B (THE FACE OF A MAN)**

1. Like to help people
2. Social creatures
3. People pleasers
4. Have a need to be liked by everyone
5. Hate rejection
6. Cannot handle being corrected because they have displeased someone
7. Sometimes self-centered, love to be praised for their achievements
8. Always try to look perfect
9. Lots of energy, enthusiastic
10. Empathetic

<u>STRENGTHS</u>	<u>WEAKNESSES</u>	<u>JOB TYPES</u>
Enthusiastic	Whimsical	Customer Service
Fun-loving	Impatient	Public Relations
Light hearted	May try to do too much at once	Party Planners
People oriented	Short Attention	Entertainment
Friendly	Not able to be alone	Recreation director
Likable	Sometimes arrogant	Politicians
	Sometimes unrealistic	

iii. PERFECTIONIST—TYPE C (THE FACE OF AN EAGLE)

1. Detail oriented
2. Micromanage
3. Interested in facts, figures, reports,
4. Does not like to see people get emotional
5. Purely factual based
6. Likes to be in control of the situation at all times
7. Looks at problems objectively, at all the facts
8. Solution oriented, finds solutions to problems.
9. Likes clarity and transparency
10. Likes originality and uniqueness

<u>STRENGTHS</u>	<u>WEAKNESSES</u>	<u>JOB TYPES</u>
Thoughtful	Disengagement (hides in his work, nonsocial)	Software programmers
Quality control	Worry about the progress	Computer designers
Critical Thinker	Skeptical, unbelieving	Accountants
Accuracy	Likes to do things their own way	Inventors
Creative	Critical of other's work, Often comparing to their own quality or standards	Data Analyst
Dependable	Detached behavior	Engineers
Imaginative	Pessimistic (glass half empty)	Troubleshooter
Analytical		Pilots
Intelligent		Artists
Organized		Game Designers
Independent		Critics
Detailed		Researchers, doctors
Plays by the rules		Scientists

iv. PEACEMAKER—TYPE D (THE FACE OF AN OX)

1. Long term oriented
2. Security, long term investor
3. Slow and easy going
4. Do not like frequent changes
5. Worrying about a lot of things
6. Seeks acceptance, admiration and respect from others
7. Not a risk taker
8. Very organized
9. Supports others
10. Likes working in a group or a team
11. Stable relationships, and jobs

<u>STRENGTHS</u>	<u>WEAKNESSES</u>	<u>JOB TYPES</u>
Good at routine/repetitive tasks	Resists changes	Customer service reps
Observant	Shy	Financial managers
Consistent	Not speaking up	Librarians

Low-key	Easily manipulated or used	Teachers
Caring	Less assertive	Mechanics
Reliable, dependable	Has their feelings hurt easily	Managers
Self-confident	Avoids confrontation	Social workers
Minimal mood changes	Goes along with it	Secretaries
Trusting of others		Counsellors
Calm		Bureaucrats
Stable		Supervisors
Approachable		Dental Assistants
Fair and equitable		

Ask yourself what categories fit your personality types. It may be that you are a combination of personality types. However, it is important to understand that not everyone is like you. You can observe someone's behavior and what they do for work and get an idea of what kind of a personality they have. This will help you to understand how to deal with that person in your own personal relationship with them.

In a marriage, the female in the marriage is called to be submissive, but if she has a TYPE A personality type, she will struggle to do that. If the marriage is to be Biblical, the husband must learn to be a TYPE A personality, coupled with a TYPE D. He must learn how to lead his wife while still doing it in a way that keeps the peace. The husband is to dwell with his wife according to knowledge. It is his job to study her and know what kind of a personality she has in order to lead, while still keeping the peace.

The wife should strive to be combination of a type B and D Personality, where she can willingly follow her husband and keep stability in her home. Are there exceptions to the rule? Of course. Sometimes the husband is physically or mentally incapable of leading the home and the wife must become strong and take up that role. However, we should try to be as Biblical in our home life as possible at all times.

THE DIFFERENT NEEDS WITHIN THE FAMILY

Every family member will have some basic needs that need to be met:

<u>HUSBAND'S NEEDS</u>	<u>WIFE'S NEEDS</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S NEEDS</u>
FEEL RESPECTED	FEEL LOVED	FEEL LOVED, LOVE
TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY	FEEL NEEDED	TO LEARN/SCHOOL
MEANINGFUL WORK	NURTURE HER CHILDREN	STRUCTURE
THE ABILITY TO LEAD	TEACH HER CHILDREN (1 Tim. 5:14)	STABILITY/STABLE ENVIRONMENT
TO HAVE HONOR	STABILITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP	PLAY/TO BE KIDS/FUN
	STABILITY IN THE HOME	

Maturity levels:

One thing people often overlook is the maturity level of someone's thinking. Sometimes, one spouse matures faster than the other either spiritually or mentally. It is said that our thinking generally matures about every five years. If you are twenty years old, and marry at that age, you will not be the same person in ten years. Your thinking should be more mature and you will make your decisions based on your experiences and growth as a person. If you never mature, but your spouse does, then your spouse will be married to someone less mature than they are and this can cause conflict.

HOW PEOPLE BASICALLY THINK AT DIFFERENT AGES (PSALMS 90:12):

AGES 5-10	Very immature	Basically loving and accepting. Minds are like sponges. Learn a lot and form their personalities based on their parent's or friend's personalities. Are easily influenced, simple.
AGES 11-13	Immature, but learning	Still generally pliable in their personalities and how they are influenced. They are going through bodily changes which affect their moods and outlook on their own self-worth. Their voices change, their feet get bigger, their faces change, they get acne, they need glasses, braces, and things that make them feel awkward or ugly. They look for and need acceptance and assurance.
AGES 14-16	Maturing and more independent thinking	The teenagers are learning how to live life on their own. They are learning how to become more and more independent in their thinking. They are distracted easily by more worldly things like sports, members of the opposite sex, going to the mall, shopping, riding their four-wheelers, Etc. They have a lot of energy, are still pliable, and have no fear of death.
AGES 16-18	Much more mature	This age group is starting to think about their future. They want to get a driver's license, a job, want to look at colleges, or think about what they will do when they graduate. They think about marriage and family and wonder who they will marry when they are old enough. They are still sometimes pretty reckless and do not always make the best decisions. They take risks, and sometimes pay for them. They are at a stage where they have to learn lessons from life itself and become more independent and sometimes rebellious.
AGES 19-25	Pretty mature, learning	They should be at a stage where they are working at their first or second job, and trying to advance their lives. They should learn life lessons about having a bank account, how to pay bills, how to keep a home, etc. Many people get married during these ages and start a new home. Boys should have left their parent's house already and live in their own place, and girls make their decisions with their parents about staying or leaving the home.
AGES 26-35	Mature, settling, getting experience	By this age people pretty much have a good idea of where they want to be in life. If they were smart, they would have been working to a point to where they could retire. They are comfortable with their lives and usually have a family with kids they are raising.
AGES 36-40	Very mature	This is an age where men begin to feel old and may even have a mid-life crisis. Women are worried because the age of their youth for having children have passed. They are reaping the fruits of their labors, either for good or bad. If they have made good choices in life, they will be well off. If

		they have made poor choices, they will also reap those consequences. The way both sexes think and their decision making process should be way different than it was when they were younger. They see things from a different perspective than when they first got married. Kids have left the house. Empty nest syndrome sometimes occurs.
AGES 41-50	Very mature	Start to contemplate their lives both in their past and their future. Start thinking about what will happen to them when they pass on, and what they will have to leave behind. They may do something very dramatic either good or bad. May adopt children to fill a void in their lives. May get a pet as a companion. May take trips and vacations to try to enjoy life or see the family. Want to experience life before they get too old to do anything about it. May have a lot of regrets, or not.
AGES 51-60	Very wise mature	Some of their friends and family may have already died close to this age and they contemplate life and death. They have medical needs, bills, and if they have not worked hard, they will struggle. They may depend on their children's help. They start to lose physical abilities, reflexive reaction times, and mental states. They are at risk for different diseases and may experience rapid aging if they do not take care of their bodies.
AGES 61-70	Very wise and mature	Bodies start deteriorating. They have more medical problems than before, bone stiffness, need to take things slower, heart problems, etc. Their minds may start to deteriorate. At risk for dementia, Parkinson's, etc. Sometimes they are at this point a widow or widower, or may about to become one. They look forward to spending time with their grandchildren. Sometimes their fear of death goes away and they may do crazy things like jump out of an airplane, or do things that are dangerous.
AGES 70-80	Very wise, mature	Sometimes feels like they have been abandoned by their family because they are so needy. They need help and many times feel helpless or alone to get that help, like they have been forgotten. They wish they were young again. They know they are on borrowed time. They have their estate in order and are awaiting death at any day. They have many medical problems, pills to take, medical aids to help them. They frequent the doctor's office and depend on the kindness of their family and friends to help them get to where they need to go. They cherish every precious moment they have with their family.

Our lives are very short, and the older we get, we should be maturing. You should not be the same person ten years from now. If you are not maturing in your thinking and growing spiritually, but others around you are, then you are going to have a difficult time keeping your family together in unity. Many divorces occur just for this reason. The wife may mature faster than the husband, and the husband is still thinking like a sixteen year old boy. He's not the twenty five year old or forty year old man he should be. He's still acting like a kid.

Parents should instill a sense of maturity in their kids, but should not be surprised when they act their age. Parents should not treat their older teens like they treat their ten year olds. They should be able to let their teens make their own mistakes and learn from them. In any case, it is important to know who you are dealing with and how mature they are in life. This will help you determine your best course of action with them.

4. Apologies and forgiveness

- a. Every home has times where the people living in it will have to apologize to each other. We are all sinners living with other sinners.
- b. Husbands and wives get into arguments and apologies need to happen. It's a part of life.
- c. Children will need to apologize to their parents and to their siblings for things they did wrong.
- d. When we've done something wrong, we should own up to it, it shows character
- e. How do we handle apologies?
 - i. Make sure they are genuine
 1. Sometimes people will give fake apologies. They will say things like
 - a. I'm sorry you were offended
 - b. I'm sorry if you did not like what I did
 2. If you did something wrong, you need to apologize for what you did
 - a. I'm sorry I messed up. I won't do it again
 - b. I was wrong for the way I handled that. Please forgive me.
- f. Forgiveness
 - i. God taught us to forgive
 1. Those who offend us every time they offend us—Matthew 18:21-35
 - a. There is trespass in unforgiveness—We are commanded to forgive (v.v.29-30)
 - b. There is torment in unforgiveness (vv.33-34)
 - c. There is equal treatment from God in unforgiveness (Matthew 18:35; 6:14-15)
 2. We forgive seventy times seven
 - a. It takes seven times to establish a habit
 - b. It takes years to establish character
 - c. Instead of someone saying, "He forgave that person", they should say, "He is a forgiving person".
 - d. Forgiveness should be as much of your character as it is in God's Character.
 - ii. God's Character:
 1. Psalms 145:8-9; Jonah 4:2; Nehemiah 9:17, 31; Luke 6:35
 - iii. What are we taught in the New Testament?
 1. Ephesians 4:30-32
 2. Colossians 3:12-15, 19
 3. Romans 12:19
 4. 1 Corinthians 16:14; 13:1-8, 13
 5. Galatians 5:22-23
- g. **Conclusion:** There is no excuse for the Christian not to forgive. Nothing can be done to us that has not already been done to Christ. Nothing has been done to us that we have not already done to Christ.
 - i. He died to pay for every sin in the world
 1. We murdered Christ because of our sin.
 2. We whipped and beat Him
 3. We crucified Him, having been innocent
 4. We spit upon Him
 5. We persecuted Him
 6. We betrayed Him

5. **Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)**

- a. As believers, we are given a ministry, the ministry of reconciliation
 - i. We are to reconcile the lost to Christ
 - ii. We are to reconcile brothers and sisters that were once at odds
 - iii. We are to reconcile marital relationships back together
 - iv. We are to reconcile broken families and churches together again.
- b. **IN YOUR COMMUNITY**
 - i. Matthew 5:9
 - ii. Romans 12:18
- c. **IN YOUR LIFE AND HOME**
 - i. James 3:18
- d. **AT THE CHURCH:**
 - i. Matthew 5:21-26
 - ii. Matthew 18:15-20
- e. As Christians, we have an obligation to Christ to reconcile people together who are at odds. Although that may not be possible in every situation, yet ours should not be a spirit to divide and hurt people's feelings.
 - i. Sometimes Christians can be very self-righteous and look down on other believers. They do not care about their soul's restoration. They only care about how holy they look compared to others. –1 Corinthians 8:1-3; Luke 18:10-14.
 - ii. Galatians 6:1-2

6. **COMMUNICATION: (Matthew 15:8)**

- a. One of the biggest problems and causes for arguments is communication
 - i. Someone does not communicate at all
 - ii. The way that you may come across will carry another meaning than intended
 - iii. Body language
 - iv. Not saying it the way you meant it to be said
- b. Communication is only as good as the person perceives it
 - i. If the other person got a different message than you intended, the blame is on you for not communicating it effectively.
 - ii. Sometimes the other person will only hear what they want to hear.
 - 1. Jesus was the most effective communicator in history, and yet people only heard what they wanted to hear from Him—John 10:24-26
- c. There are five basic ways to communicate to someone
 - i. Oral—Speaking to them, words
 - ii. Visual—Body Language, facial expressions, hand or eye movements, the way you dress (formal, informal, casual), in a car you are using your blinker to change the lane.
 - iii. Sensory—Touch. Placing your hand on someone's shoulder for empathy, holding your wife's hand for intimacy, a slap on the back
 - iv. Writing—letters, notes, novels, books (The Bible is God's way of communicating to us through words).
 - 1. Some people are better at writing their feelings or emotions than they are talking about them (2 Corinthians 10:7-10).
 - v. Smell—Wearing cologne or perfume, not taking a shower for five days
- d. The reason why many arguments happen in a marriage is because most men are usually bad at communicating
 - i. Their feelings or emotions

- ii. They usually use less words, the wife does all the talking
 - iii. Type A personalities have a hard time expressing their emotions or feelings
 - 1. They don't like to seem vulnerable or weak, they view it as a weakness
 - 2. It is a power move sometimes
- e. As Christians, we are going to have to work on our communication skills
 - i. It will help others to understand us better
 - ii. It will put people at ease, when they are nervous (What's he thinking?)
 - 1. Quiet people are hard to understand and make people nervous
 - iii. Your words are a window into your heart
 - 1. Psalms 19:14; Matthew 15:11
 - 2. The only way people have to judge your heart's intentions or motives is by what you do and say
 - a. Although God sees your heart for what it is, yet man sees only what they can hear and watch (1 Samuel 16:7)
 - iv. There is a difference between sharing your thoughts and feelings and speaking too much
 - 1. Proverbs 29:11—You need to think about what you say before saying it
 - a. Blurting out opinions without hearing the facts is bad
 - i. (Proverbs 18:13)
 - 2. Song of Solomon 8:9-9
 - a. Here a little girl, maybe nine or ten years old
 - b. She is deciding what to do in life in her relationships to others
 - c. IF SHE BE A WALL
 - i. If she is a shy, enclosed person, untrusting of anyone
 - ii. Building upon her a palace of silver would make her attractive. Others would want to speak to her and talk to her. She would get attention that she was too scared to get before (Proverbs 19:4)
 - d. IF SHE BE A DOOR
 - i. A door lets people in too easily
 - 1. This is also unhealthy
 - ii. They will want to reign her in a little bit by boarding up the door
 - e. There must be a balance in how you let people in to your life and how you keep them out
 - i. Letting in the wrong people can hurt you
 - ii. Letting in the right people will lift you up
 - 1. Who are your friends? Are they going to lift you up? Can you trust them?
- f. **Conclusion:** Communication is something that we all need to work on
 - i. Listening to others is just as important as speaking to them (James 1:19)
 - ii. Relationships are based on two way communication
 - 1. How good are you at communicating with God?
 - 2. How good are you at communicating with your spouse and family?
 - a. If you ask for feedback, they will give you an honest answer
 - b. If you get an answer you don't like, work on it, and don't try to justify it.