



8 PROBLEM SOLVING PRINCIPLES

1st Be Truthful

- Silence is only avoiding the problem.
- Encourage the other to speak up, and speak freely without hurting the other person.
- Ask the silent person - when is a good time for us to talk?
- You must become a good listener without judging.
- The experience should be positive.
- Be straight, don't beat around the bush.
- Don't exaggerate.
- Don't use words like, always, all the time, everyone, never!
- Admit when you are wrong

2nd Be Quick to Reconcile

Ephesians 4:26 – 27, “Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; Neither give place to the devil.”

- Always allow yourself to calm down first.
- If you let it fester you only begin to think negative things.
- You feel better when it's over.
- You can move forward when it has been addressed.
- Who should go first? You!

Matt. 18:15.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother.”

Matt 5:23

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberst that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Many marriages have broken up over a lot of small issues that have grown into big issues. Learn to handle them when they are small.

3rd Be Honest and Generous

- Do not try to rob the other person of love, honor, respect, confidence; by the way you treat them.
- God is love and everything we do we should do in love.
- Your goal is to resolve the issue, too often it seems the goal turns to trying to hurt to other person.
- How often have you rehearsed in your mind how you were “going to get back at the other person”, instead of thinking hard, how can we resolve this.

4th Be Positive and Constructive

Ephesians 4:29 -30 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, where by ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Three points:

- Not corrupt – Don't attack. Don't say you.
- Focus on the positive and this issue, not the person.
- It's spiritual, so don't grieve the Holy Spirit, remember he is your help, why would you grieve him.

5th Be Forgiving

Eph 4:31 – 32 - *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another; even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

A. Forgive and don't seek revenge.

Romans 12:19 – “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

B. Forgive so God will also forgive you.

Matt. 6:12 – 15 - And forgive us out debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

V. 14 For if we forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive your trespasses.

C. God has forgiven you many times, and so should you forgive your spouse.

Matt. 18:21 – 35 - How often should I forgive my brother? 490 times.

6th Be Christ like

Phil. 2:5 – 10 - Let his mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

- Be selfless;
- Be sacrificial.
- Be serving.

It's not always easy being the bigger person, but it does have rewards. It is better to win the war and lose the battle.
Movie Hamburger Hill

7th Be Gracious

Matt.7: 1- 5

- 1) Judge not, that ye be not judged.

- 2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
- 2) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
- 3) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
- 4) Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

- A. We must use grace, or else we will be judged.
- B. You set the standard for your judgment once you begin to judge, I would rather set my standard as one of grace, mercy and forgiveness, than judgment and condemnation. In other words, if you are always giving out grace and mercy, then grace and mercy will always come back to you.
- C. We are not qualified to judge because of our own faults, the biggest being that of condemnation. The mote in our eye. Because of a spirit of condemnation, we are not qualified to help, which is what we should have been doing.

8th Be patient and Prayerful

1 Peter 2:21 – 23 – “For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. Who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;

- A. Clean conduct before suffering.
- B. Calm conduct during suffering.
- C. Complete commitment during suffering.