



How the Cross Changes My Conflict

James 4:4-10 / 1 Sam 24, 31

4:1-3 is the SOURCE of conflict, now 4-10 is how SERIOUS. The Cross proves our hearts are WORSE than others see, that God alone judges & justifies. Conflict CAN be resolved... but that takes strong medicine!

ADULTERER, you have chosen: *The Cross shows how serious is your ri_____y & rejection (4-5)*

Spiritual adultery = _____ possible language. Its when earthly paths seem _____ and God's paths seem strange. Its you playing Judge and playing God with another's motives and messiness. "But like a woman faithless to her lover, even so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel," says the LORD" ([Jer 3:20](#); [Isaiah 1:21](#); [57:8](#); [Ezek16:30](#)).

HUMBLE, you have a promise: *The Cross shows your sin is W____E than any criticism, but Grace is greater! (6)*

1 Sam 24: God makes c_____m caves. God t____s us in the cave. God brings li_____ in the cave

DOUBLE-MINDED, _____ fully: *The Cross washes you to feel _____ly and cleanse _____ly (7-10)*

WOW-10 POWERWASHINGS!! RESULT? Confessing horizontal:

1. Avoid if, but, and maybe (Do not try to excuse your wrongs)
2. Admit specifically (Own attitudes and actions that are wrong before God)
3. Acknowledge the hurt & consequences ("You must have felt embarrassed when I said those things")
4. Ask for forgiveness

SAUL's DEATH vs JESUS' DEATH: *The Cross proves that God is a capable judge and justifier (7-10)*

Peacemaker's Pledge

GLORIFY GOD

Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring him praise by depending on his forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love, as we seek to faithfully obey his commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude ([Ps. 37:1-6](#); [Mark 11:25](#); [John 14:15](#); [Rom. 12:17-21](#); [1 Cor. 10:31](#); [Phil. 4:2-9](#); [Col. 3:1-4](#); [James 3:17-18](#); [4:1-3](#); [1 Peter 2:12](#)).

GET THE LOG OUT OF YOUR EYE

Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused ([Prov. 28:13](#); [Matt. 7:3-5](#); [Luke 19:8](#); [Col. 3:5-14](#); [1 John 1:8-9](#)).

GENTLY RESTORE

Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or we will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook, seeking to restore them rather than condemn them. When a conflict with a Christian brother or sister cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner ([Prov. 19:11](#); [Matt. 18:15-20](#); [1 Cor. 6:1-8](#); [Gal. 6:1-2](#); [Eph. 4:29](#); [2 Tim. 2:24-26](#); [James 5:9](#)).

GO AND BE RECONCILED

Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation—forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences ([Matt. 5:23-24](#); [6:12](#); [7:12](#); [Eph. 4:1-3, 32](#); [Phil. 2:3-4](#)).



THE SEVEN A'S OF CONFESSION

[Matt. 7:3-5](#); [1 John 1:8-9](#); [Prov. 28:13](#)

- A**DDRESS everyone involved
- A**VOID if, but, and maybe
- A**DMIT specifically
- A**CKNOWLEDGE the hurt
- A**CCCEPT the consequences
- A**LTER your behavior
- A**SK for forgiveness

THE FOUR PROMISES OF FORGIVENESS

[Matt. 6:12](#); [1 Cor. 13:5](#); [Eph. 4:32](#)

- I will not dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring this incident up and use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

THE PAUSE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATING

[Phil. 2:3-4](#); [Matt. 7:12](#)

- P**repare
- A**ffirm relationships
- U**nderstand interests
- S**earch for creative solutions
- E**valuate options objectively and reasonably

GETTING UPSTREAM OF CONFLICT

Visit Academy.rw360.org to develop skills that will strengthen your relationships and actually **prevent conflict!**



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Our mission is to equip Christians to develop strong, enduring and appealing relationships that display the love of Jesus Christ and the transforming power of his gospel. We provide educational resources, seminar and training to help churches, seminaries, ministries and businesses around the world. We also provide conflict coaching, mediation and arbitration services to help resolve family conflicts, business disputes, church divisions and lawsuits in a way that restores relationships, promotes justice and brings peace to God.

TO DIG DEEPER:

Dave Harvey, *When Sinners Say I Do*

Ken Sande: *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* and *Peacemaking For Families*

Tim Keller: *Counterfeit Gods*

Brad Bigney: *Gospel Treason*