

# REDUCING CONFLICT

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**Psalms 133:1, 3 (NIV84)** “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in **unity!**  
... For there the LORD bestows his  **blessing**, even life forevermore.”

Four practical steps that will help reduce conflict...

## I. STRIVE FOR \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2 (NIV84)** If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,  
2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

A. Choose love & unity over \_\_\_\_\_.

**JOHN 17:23 (NIV84)** ...May they be brought to complete **unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

B. **Application #1:** Ask God to help you \_\_\_\_\_ love & unity over division.

## II. CONSIDER OTHERS \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 (NIV84)** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

A. Conflict ALWAYS involves \_\_\_\_\_.

**JAMES 4:1-2 (NIV84)** What causes fights and quarrels among you? D... You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want.

B. Considering 'others first' will impact the \_\_\_\_\_.

C. **Application #2:** Let someone else “Go \_\_\_\_\_” this week.

## III. IMITATE CHRIST WITH \_\_\_\_\_.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5-6 (NIV84)** Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

**PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8 (NIV84)** but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

A. \_\_\_\_\_: The key to reducing conflict!

B. Humble \_\_\_\_\_ so God doesn't have to.

**1 PETER 5:6 (NIV84)** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

**DANIEL 4:37 (NIV84)** Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

**MATTHEW 23:12 (NIV84)** For whoever exalts himself will be **humbled**, and who ever **humbles** himself will be exalted.

C. **Application #3:** Humble yourself, so \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't have to.

## IV. \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD'S AUTHORITY.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 (NIV84)** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above **every** name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A. Give Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ of your life!

B. **Application #4:** HOW? Choose to trust Jesus as your \_\_\_\_\_ today!