Conflict Resolution – Giving and Receiving a Godly Rebuke
“Conflict Resolution - Jesus Style”

A plan of action is almost ALWAYS better than reaction
- Reaction usually comes from the flesh
- A well-thought out, prayed through plan of action is more often from the Spirit

1. **Confrontation is not a bad thing**, if done the right way. I think it is too often avoided by Christians! Proverbs 9:8, 17:10, 19:25, 25:12 - it is a good thing.
   - Many people avoid confrontation because they see it as a negative thing. They believe it is the best to avoid it. This is not true!
   - Many avoid it because they are afraid to rock the boat, don’t want to deal with the pain of confrontation.

2. **Relationships are destroyed due to lack of confrontation/rebuke!** Ephesians 4:26-27
   - When we get angry and do not deal with it, it gives the devil a foothold.
   - A night’s sleep sometimes “smoothes” over a problem - makes it “not so bad”. This can be good and it can be bad!
   - Then the devil works on us and our anger brews - little things begin to make us angry, we begin to see lots of little things in this person’s life that really bother us.
   - One day a straw breaks the camels back - EXPLOSION.

   *If you continually unload the camel, a straw never breaks his back! Godly confrontation will unload the camel. Ungodly will likely increase the load.*

3. **Not dealing with conflict, affects our worship!** Matthew 5:21-24
   - v. 21-22 - Words can lead to anger.
   - v. 23-24 - It hurts your relationship with God and ability to worship Him if you do not deal with it.

4. **Four guidelines that will help when a rebuke is needed:**
   1. Not in front of others Matthew 18:15, at least at first 18:16-17.
      - probably best to deal with personal matters personally
      - but, there is a time to rebuke publicly I Timothy 5:20.
      *Goal is not to embarrass them or make them feel bad. The goal is that their life honor Christ and grow to be more like Him!*

   2. After serious prayer! (Mainly for your own motives.)
3. It is best to do it when you are not angry.
4. Use selective words and tone of voice! There is a time to be gentle Gal. 6:1, and a time to be sharp Titus 1:12-13.
   - DO NOT BE CONDEMNING!
   - *Don’t Say,* “Why did you do that?!” (angry & vengeful)
   - *Say,* “Why did you do that?” (hurt but desiring resolution)

Normally, rebuke and apology go hand in hand!

_rebuke should come from love, otherwise it is just giving a verbal beating!

5. **Four guidelines that help when receiving a Godly rebuke:**
   1. Fight Anger!
   2. Do not rebuke back! Don’t need a rebuke session! Wait hours or days if you have an issue with the one coming to you.
   3. Pray about it. Is the rebuke valid?

*Be more concerned about the Kingdom of God than your own personal rights!!*

THE KEY HERE IN RECEIVING A REBUKE IS TO BECOME AND REMAIN TEACHABLE!!!!

CAUTION: Do Not Become a Rebuke Monster!

**SUMMARY:**
- Confrontation is not a bad thing.
- Relationships get destroyed without it.
- Choosing not to deal with it affects our worship.
- There are guidelines for giving a Godly rebuke.
- There are guidelines for receiving a Godly rebuke.

By Rusty Cryer, FOCUS Orientation 2001