



Resolving Conflicts

Abraham and Lot give us a lesson to help us better deal with conflicts

This Bible study was derived from "Living Your Christian Values" by Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. (pages 100-101).

What you will learn:

1. Five steps to resolve conflicts when you are in authority.
2. Five steps to resolve conflicts with those in authority.

Scripture reference: Genesis 13

Genesis 13:1-5 - Who accompanied Abram on his journey up from Egypt?

What was the relationship between Abram and Lot?

So who had the most authority between Abram and Lot?

Who was responsible for the well-being of the entourage?

Genesis 13:1-5 - How would you describe Abram and Lot's economic condition?

Genesis 13:6-7 - What happened between Abram and Lot's herdsmen?

What did the strife between Abram and Lot's herdsmen indicate? What was really behind the strife?

Genesis 13:6-7 - What impact did this strife have on the Canaanites and the Perizzites?

Who are the Canaanites and the Perizzites of today?

Where did Jesus say, "By this all will know that you are my disciples if you're fundamental and you organize a church"?

Genesis 13:8-9 - Who offered a solution to the strife between Abram and Lot?

Genesis 13:8-9 - What solution to the strife did Abram propose to Lot?

Could Lot have made the same suggestion Abram did? Why didn't he?

Genesis 13:10-11 - Which piece of land did Lot chose?

What might have happened if Abram did not propose a solution?

Genesis 13:12-13 - What was the danger to Lot in the decision that he made?

Does this mean that we should form Christian communes and not associate with people in the world?

Who had the higher moral ground, Abram or Lot? Why?

Genesis 13:14-16 - How did God reward Abram's taking the higher moral ground?

How do you think God views the Middle-East "piece" process which revolves around the idea that Israel should give up pieces of their land for peace?

Let's see if we can identify five principles Abram used in resolving his conflict with Lot...

1. Can you be responsible for someone who refuses your authority?
2. How is discipline effected when someone who refuses your rightful authority?
3. Who must take the initiative to resolve the conflict?
4. What should your solution reveal about you?
5. What should your solution require of the other person?

Think of a situation that you are in, or were in, or could be in and apply these principles to come up with a solution.

Now, what if you are the subordinate? How can these principles be used by the subordinate to resolve conflicts?

1. Who has God given the authority and responsibility lie in this situation?
2. What role does discipline play in your life?
3. What role should you play in the decision making process?
4. What should the way you conduct yourself reveal about you?
5. When you honor the one in authority, what are the consequences for that person?

Think of a situation that you are in, or were in, or could be in and apply these principles to come up with a solution.