

8. In your experience is most conflict is caused by:

- a. Misunderstandings?
- b. Gender differences?
- c. Age differences?
- d. Selfishness?
- e. Stress?
- f. Ethnic differences?
- g. Jealousy?
- h. Personality clashes?
- i. Control problems?
- j. Injustice?
- k. Something else?

9. How do these factors inspire us to pray?

# **DONCASTER CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**2022**

**Study 1**

**REDUCING CONFLICT**

1. How do you feel after you have had an argument? Hurt?
  - a. Angry?
  - b. Relieved?
  - c. Miserable?
  - d. Something else?
  
2. **Read Mark 2:6-11, 15-17, 23-24, 3:1-4**
  - a. How did Jesus cause conflict?
  - b. How did he handle it?
  - c. What do you think the root causes of the following conflicts were?
  
3.
  - a. Is conflict necessarily bad?
  - b. Can you think of historical times or events in your own life when conflict created some good? (Your marriage, your family, your church, your work?)
  
4. **Are you a clean or dirty fighter?**  
**Do you:**
  - a. Store up a few resentments before letting fly?
  - b. Take the opportunity to verbally attack the other person as well as deal with the conflict issue?
  - c. Frequently use the phrase, “You remind me of your mother”?
  - d. Include such phrases as “You always do that” or “I remember when...”?
  - e. Throw things?
  - f. Play ‘no speaks’ for an extended time?
  - g. Use phrases like, “Typical male!” or “Typical female!”?
  
5. **Read Gal. 5:22-26, Col. 3:12-14**  
 Paul presents the following qualities as evidence of God’s spirit growing in our lives:  
*Love Joy Peace Patience Kindness Goodness Faithfulness Gentleness Self Control.*
  - a. How would any of these help us to be a cleaner fighter?
  - b. How would these qualities reduce conflict?
  - c. How do we develop these qualities?
  
6. **Read Matthew 5:21-24, 38-42, 43-48, 7:1-5**
  - a. How do these passages relate to the way that we are involved in conflict?
  - b. Do they raise unrealistic expectations?
  
7. Which of the following verses from Proverbs (NRSV) have a message for you or for somebody you know? Why?
  - a. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. On the lips of one who has understanding wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of one who lacks sense. The wise lay up knowledge, but the babbling of a fool brings ruin near (Prov. 10:12-14).
  - b. Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but one who rejects a rebuke goes astray. Lying lips conceal hatred, and whoever utters slander is a fool (10:17-18)
  - c. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse (10:32).
  - d. A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (15:1).
  - e. The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil (15:28).