

Resolving Family Conflicts

Resolving Those Parent/Child Conflicts

MATTHEW 5:23–24; 18:21–35



The Heart of the Matter

Conflicts are inevitable in every family. And learning how to resolve them is of vital importance. Sometimes parents are the ones who create conflict. Moms and dads are often too busy and preoccupied, which leads them to be impatient and irritable. As a result, they wound their sons and daughters by what they say and do, leaving scars that don't go away. It's not uncommon for children to offend their parents as well. As children get older, they often act selfishly, respond angrily, or thoughtlessly blurt out words that hurt their parents. This behavior also results in lingering and painful feelings that only intensify over the years. When conflicts remain unresolved, unhealthy consequences occur—like deep wounds that get infected and fester. Unless conflicts are dealt with appropriately, there can be a permanent breakdown in relationships that time alone will not heal. Who knows how many families today have grown apart due to silence and unresolved conflicts? Who can guess how many wrongs have been swept aside, causing unmentioned family secrets to linger? Reconciliation is essential if we wish to cultivate healthy and wholesome relationships. But . . . how?



Discovering the Way

1. An Important Word We Need to Define

Before we discuss resolving family conflicts, we need to define the word forgiveness.

2. Two Major Issues We Must Address

First, what do we do when another feels resentment toward us because we have offended him or her (Matthew 5:23–24)? Second, what do we do when we feel resentment toward another because he or she offended us (Matthew 18:21–35)?

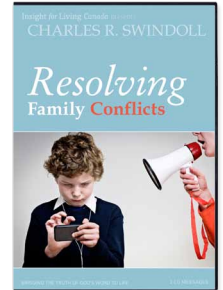


Starting Your Journey

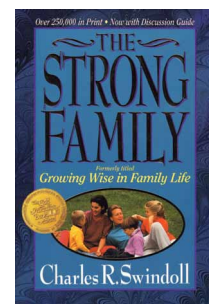
When facing conflict, the single most important response is based on this awareness: it's always my move! It's your move to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and it's your move to give forgiveness.



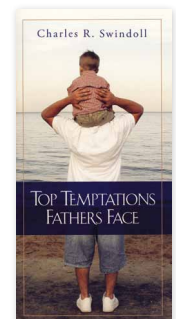
Tools for Digging Deeper



Resolving Family Conflicts
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD set of 2 CDs



The Strong Family
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