

## **The Way of Wisdom 2** **Dealing wisely with conflict**

Attitudes to embrace as we go through life so we can deal well with conflict.

### **1. Decide to Love (Proverbs 10:12)**

*Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.*

The Hebrew word for "hatred" can simply mean a strong dislike.

"Cover" is the root meaning of the word we translate in other places as "forgive."

"Love" is making the decision to act in the best interests of the other person.

### **2. Forgive Offenses (Proverbs 19:11)**

*A person's wisdom gives them patience; it is to their glory to overlook an offense.*

"Overlook" = the same Hebrew word translated "cover" in the previous proverb.

Often we forgive people without ever confronting the person who hurts us. But there are times when we do need to confront a person in order to work through the process of forgiveness.

When we refuse to forgive, the person's offense keeps victimizing us again and again, because we dwell on it continually

### **3. Admit Your Role (Proverbs 28:13)**

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

"Conceal" is the same Hebrew word as "cover" and "overlook."

I can't "cover" or "overlook" my own sins. Only the person I hurt can make the choice to "cover" or "overlook" my offense.

### **4. Keep Your Anger In Check (Proverbs 29:22)**

*"An angry person stirs up dissention, and a hot tempered person commits many sins" (Prov 29:22 NIV).*

Anger in a conflict is like gas on a fire. Keep it under control.

### **5. Correct Carefully (Proverbs 9:7-9)**

*"Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked person invites abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise person and he will love you. Instruct a wise person and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous person and he will add to his learning" (Prov 9:7-9 NIV).*

You have no control over how the other person acts in a conflict. But you can learn to correct others carefully.

Focus your efforts on engaging people who are open, people who want to live with the grain of God's wisdom, not those who scorn wisdom.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus himself said, "By this will all people know you are my followers, if you love each other" (John 13:35). And as we practice these attitudes in our relationships, people around us will see that Jesus is changing us to be more like him.