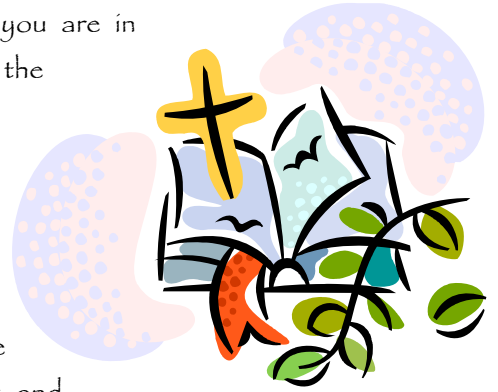




Kathy Tweeten,
Head Administrator

Handling Conflict Biblically

Conflict is part of the human experience, whether you are in elementary school, middle school or an adult. In fact the word “conflict” comes from the Latin *fligere*, meaning literally “to strike together.” How you handle conflict, however, is up to you. You can handle it



Biblically or non-Biblically. The Word of God gives us clear guidelines on how to deal with developing this life-long skill. Since this is such a critical skill to be successful in life, we have trained our teachers in the Young Peacemakers principles, found in Ken and Corlette Sande’s books, and we begin training our students beginning in Kindergarten.

The two most quoted Biblical references in regard to conflict resolution are Matthew 5 and 18:

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” ~ *Matthew 5:23-24*

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” ~ *Matthew 18: 15-17*

As parents, your steps for handling conflict at CHA should follow this Biblical pattern:

- 1) Prayerfully and humbly, meet privately with the person to seek resolution in a spirit of reconciliation. This means that if you have a classroom concern, you should first go to your child’s teacher to try to resolve your concern. If you have a concern with another parent or a staff member, you should go directly to that person. It is critical that you do not go to your friends, family, other CHA families, Facebook, Twitter, etc. with your concerns. These people are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution, and this will not resolve the issue in a Biblical manner.
- 2) If reconciliation is not met, the two concerned parties should meet with administration to try to resolve the issue in a spirit of reconciliation. We are happy to sit down with both parties to help resolve the issue if Step 1 has not been successful. We want to continue to work things out until there is full resolution. Fleeing conflict or shoving it down will not bring reconciliation; it will only prolong the issue and usually make the matter worse. Unresolved conflict is like an infected sore. If we go to others before speaking with the person with whom we have a conflict, it is like starting an infection that can spread deeply and affect the health of the entire body. It is not easily healed, and scars can occur. However, by following Biblical principles, it is like lancing the sore, cleaning out the infection and adding an antibiotic. The wound will heal clean, and that area of the body will be stronger for it. For more details on how parents are to handle conflict Biblically, please see pages 23-25 of our Parent/Student Handbook.

In the February issue of our newsletter, we will discuss how CHA trains our children in the Young Peacemakers principles.