

Resolving Conflict – Lou Priolo

Week 1: Humility

The Need for This Study:

The Prerequisites:

“...learning all those wonderful, biblically principles of conflict resolution will do you little good if you don’t meet the prerequisites...Believing that you can skip prerequisites is as shortsighted as a building contractor believing he can erect a skyscraper without first driving the pilings upon which its foundation will be laid deep into the bedrock. Such a building may stand for a moment, but it simply will not endure the test of time – it will not be able to stand up to the tempestuous forces of nature and will soon crumble.”¹

- The Dangers of Pride

“Pride is the one sin, above all others, that hinders our ability to resolve conflicts with others.”²

“Pride blinds us not only to itself, but to every other sin tucked away in the recesses of our hearts and lives. It causes us to hate correction and reproof. It hides our sin from us, it justifies our sin, it excuses our sin, and it keeps us from repenting of our sin. It deceives us into thinking that we are spiritually well when, in fact, we have a deadly cancer and are in desperate need of the Great Physician’s balm.”³

- Manifestations of Pride

- 1. Pride is the delusion that our achievements are primarily the results of our own doing*
- 2. Pride is esteeming ourselves above and beyond the condition and proportion that God has appointed for us*
- 3. Pride is the desire to be esteemed by others above and beyond the condition and proportion that God has appointed for us*
- 4. Pride is the desire to exalt ourselves above and beyond the condition and proportion that God has appointed for us*

¹ Lou Priolo, *Resolving Conflict: How to Make, Disturb, and Keep Peace* (P & R Publishing, 2016)., p. 16.

² Priolo, *Resolving Conflict.*, p. 19.

³ Priolo, *Resolving Conflict.*, p. 20.

- Humility

Humility is an accurate assessment of self in light of the greatness of God, the depth of our sin, and the grace of the cross.

The Greatness of God (Psalm 8; 104:1; 145:3; Is. 40:12; James 1:17; 1 Cor. 4:7; Job 40-42)

The Depth of our Sin (Is. 6:1-5; Rom. 3:10-20; 1:18; 6:23)

The Grace of the Cross (1 Tim. 1:12ff; Eph. 2:1-10; Matt 18:21-35; Phil 2:3ff)

“Everything, dear friend, that which makes you to differ from the unsaved sinner, is the gift of God's grace to you. You know it is. You have faith in Christ—yes, but did not the Holy Spirit work it in you? Do you not cheerfully subscribe to the doctrine that faith is of the gift of God? You have repentance of sin, but was the repentance natural to you? Did you not receive it from him who is exalted on high to give repentance? Is not your repentance, his gift?”⁴

“The root of humility is right knowledge. The man who really knows himself and his own heart—who knows God and His infinite majesty and holiness —who knows Christ, and the price at which he was redeemed—that man will never be a proud man.”⁵

⁴ “Pride Catechized and Condemned,” accessed October 5, 2025, https://gracegems.org/Spurgeon/pride_catechized_and_condemned.htm.

⁵ J C Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*, n.d., p. 1109. <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/ryle/Expository%20Thoughts%20%20-%20J.%20C.%20Ryle.pdf>