Twisted Ten Speed
Featuring Kent & James

Some friend you are!
It's not my fault!

Conflict? I'm not having a conflict!
Conflict Is a Slippery Slope

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18
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What happened to my new bike?

Look! It's all bent and scratched!

Man-o-man! I only left it for a second.

You said you'd watch my bike, beetle brain. This is all your fault!

I did not say I'd watch your bike! Besides, it's your fault for leaving it where it could get smashed!

Look! My bike is wrecked! You'd better figure out how to come up with the money to get me a new one!

Where's the slippery slope? I don't see any slippery slope!

Grrrrrrrrr!
The Slippery Slope

My bike is wrecked and you'll have to pay for it!

It's not my fault your bike got smashed!

Conflict is a Slippery Slope
There is danger ahead if you slip!
The Escape Responses are used to get away from conflict instead of trying to resolve it. These responses usually prolong conflict.

**Denial**

Pretending that a conflict does not exist, or refusing to do what we can to work it out is always a wrong response to conflict.

**Blame Game**

Instead of taking responsibility for our choices, we try to escape their consequences by blaming others for the problem, pretending we did nothing wrong, covering up what we did, or lying about our contribution to a conflict. This is never a responsible way to handle conflict, nor does it resolve problems.

**Run Away**

Running away from the person we are quarreling with is only acceptable if there is danger of harm. Otherwise this response just prolongs problems.
2. **Attack**

The Attack Responses are used to put pressure on others to get our own way. These responses usually damage relationships.

**Put Downs**

We attack others with harsh and cruel words when conflict arises. This response usually stirs up anger in the other person, and is always a wrong response to conflict.

**Gossip**

We talk about people behind their backs in order to damage their reputation or to get others on our side. Gossip is hurtful and is always a wrong response to a conflict.

**Fight**

We use physical force to get our own way. This is almost always a wrong response to conflict. (This response is proper only if you have to protect yourself or another person from being injured by an attacker.)
The Work-It-Out Responses are used to find constructive solutions to conflicts. These responses usually help to preserve relationships.

**Overlook an Offense**

You deal with the offense by yourself. You simply decide to forgive a wrong action against you and walk away from a conflict. Perhaps you think this is the same as denial, but forgiveness is the key here. The person who overlooks another’s offenses will continue to have a growing, healthy relationship with him or her. “Don’t sweat the small stuff!” If you cannot overlook a problem, you should use one of the other work-it-out responses (see Prov. 19:11; 12:16; 17:14; Col. 3:13; 1 Peter 4:8).

**Talk-It-Out**

A conflict is resolved by going directly to the other person to talk it out together. This can include confessing your own wrongs and confronting the other person’s wrongs in a kind way. This response should be used if you cannot overlook what the other person did and the problem is hurting your relationship (see Matt. 18:15; 5:23-24; see also Prov. 28:13; Gal. 6:1-3).
Get Help to Know What You Should Say

When you are in a difficult conflict, it is often wise to ask someone else (such as a parent, teacher, or friend) to help you decide how you can handle the conflict so it won’t get worse—at least from your side. Ask the person to help you know what you should say and how you should say it. This is called coaching (see Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:29).

Get Help to Talk Together

If you go to the other person and you cannot resolve the conflict just between the two of you, then ask someone else to meet with both of you to help you talk together and find a solution to the problem. This is called mediation. Mediators can suggest solutions to you, but you still need to decide what to do (see Matt. 18:16).

Get Help to Decide

If you cannot solve a conflict by talking with each other or by mediation, then you can both tell your side of the story to a person in authority who will decide on a solution. This is called arbitration. The helping person (an “arbitrator”) could be a parent, teacher, school administrator, or pastor. The arbitrator's decision is final (see 1 Cor. 6:1-6).
Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, I have a lot to learn about conflict and how to handle it better. Most of the time I respond by escaping or attacking. I can see now that those responses make my conflicts worse and even hurt my relationships with others. Teach me how to be a peacemaker, Lord. In Jesus' name.

Amen

Hey, young fella, please forgive me. I backed over your bike with my truck. I'll make it up to you.

Hey, I forgive you, Kent. We're friends forever!

Problem solved! The maintenance guy ran over my bike.

And he's buyin' me a new one!! I was wrong to blame you, James.

WHERE'S THE GOOP?

"Conflict is a slippery slope" is a key thought, and it appears 10 times in this lesson. Can you find them all?

1-8
Can YOU Survive the SLIPPERY SLOPE

Take This Simple Slippery Slope Test and See How You React to Conflict.

You may choose the same response-answer as many times as you need to. To see if you survived the slippery slope, check the answers at the bottom of the page.

This Is What Happened:

A  Your best friend calls and asks your advice. While you are trying to listen and give your best advice, your sister keeps yelling at you.

How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

1. Be angry, but hide your feelings.
2. Stop talking to him or her.
3. Go with the person with whom you are in disagreement and find a parent, teacher or trusted friend to help you discuss and decide the matter.
4. Get angry, push, shove, attack or yell back.
5. Go by yourself to a parent, teacher or trusted friend to get advice.
6. Put the other person down and make him or her feel inferior.
7. Forgive him or her completely of any wrongdoing.
8. Tell your friends or other family members about how you were treated and wronged.
9. Pretend nothing is wrong, but send unspoken messages about how angry you are.
10. Go to the person with whom you are in conflict. Try to talk out the problem without getting angry.

B  Your grandmother's wedding rings are missing. The rings were found in the pocket of your jeans, but you did not take the rings. Your mother says:

How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

Choose Your Response to Situations A, B, C, D:

C  You saved up and bought an aquarium and some very expensive fish. Your three-year-old cousin who is visiting says:

How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

D  You go into your room and find that your desk and dresser drawers are all dumped over. Your brother says:

How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

If most of your answers are 1, 5, 7, 9, congratulations, you have survived the slippery slope. Answers 2, 3, 6 are attack reactions.
ACTIVITY

Bible Heroes on the Slippery Slope

Who Could Do It, Notatin’ to It & Who Blew It?

Referring to the slippery slope diagram, indicate which response to conflict was used in each of the following situations (deny, blame game, run away, put downs, gossip, fight, overlook, talk, get help).

1. Adam and Eve are confronted with their sin (Gen. 3:8-13). Blame Game

2. Cain murders Abel (Gen. 4:2b-6).

3. Eli denies the seriousness of his sons’ sin (1 Sam 2:22-25).

4. David fights with Goliath (1 Sam. 17:1-51).

5. Nathan confronts David about his adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11:1-12:13).

6. Jonah runs away from God (Jonah 1:1-3:3).

7. Daniel wants to eat proper foods (Dan. 1:8-16).


10. People do not want to hear Stephen talk about Jesus (Acts 6:8 7:54-60).


• A powerful new system to teach children to prevent and resolve conflict.
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