

Wretched Worldview

**Conflict:
The Biblical Approach**

Study Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the study guide for Wretched Worldview's *Conflict: The Biblical Approach* DVD. This guide has been created to help you maximize the content of the *Conflict: The Biblical Approach* DVD.

The chapter questions are intended to be used in a homeschool setting, but can also be used for small groups or Sunday school classes. For the homeschool student, the answers should include biblical references when possible.

The Going Deeper questions are designed to encourage deeper thinking and understanding of the subject. The goal is to strengthen the viewers' biblical worldview and instill skills to think biblically.

An answer guide and test are also available in this download.

A Word from Wretched

If anyone can confess they have conflict in their lives, it should be Christians! While we certainly don't embrace sin, we most certainly should be able to admit that we all struggle with conflict.

These conflicts can serve as a vice. Conflict can squeeze us to see what comes out, revealing what is in our hearts. Sometimes what comes out is not pretty.

The pagan approach to conflict resolution is to merely change one's behavior. God wants us to use conflict to change our hearts.

You are to be applauded for taking the time to not simply become a conflict avoider, but to grow in Christlikeness. That is precisely what this study is designed to do.

And don't worry; your secret is safe with us.

Todd Friel
Host of Wretched Radio & TV

CHAPTER ONE: Love is Not Irritable, Part 1

1. According to I Corinthians 13:5, what is love not to be?
2. What does it mean to be irritable?
3. According to I Corinthians 13, how are Christians supposed to love? What is the Greek word to describe this kind of love?
4. What is the problem with the way humanity loves? What is Jesus' prescription for this problem and what verse tells you this?
5. Summarize the point of Todd's conversation with Adrian about his foot.

GOING DEEPER:

Read I Corinthians 13 and answer the following questions:

1. Summarize the first three verses by filling in the blanks below. Use your own words.

If I...

Then...

_____ **but do not have love** _____

_____ **but do not have love** _____

_____ **but do not have love** _____

2. Based upon verses 4-8a, complete the chart below on what love is/does and what love is not/does not.

Love is/does...

Love is not/does not...

3. What is the Greek word for this type of love? How does this description fit the definition you learned in the chapter?
4. What progress are you making in loving others with agape love? Go through the list above and put a checkmark next to the characteristics of agape love, which you most struggle with. In the space below, describe your thoughts and actions towards others and how they are different from the way God calls you to love them. Then, take some time to pray, confessing your sin and asking God to help you love the people in your life with this agape love.

CHAPTER TWO: Love is Not Irritable, Part 2

1. Why are we not to be irritable or easily provoked?
2. What is the Christian's reason for not being irritable with people?
3. How did Jesus display his lack of irritableness with people during His earthly ministry?
4. What did Jesus do for His disciples before the Last Supper that is the opposite of being irritated with them?
5. What is the best way to keep yourself from being irritable with people?
6. How did Todd describe sanctification (the process of growing in holiness)?
7. Which direction does a Christian look when mortifying sin in their life? How is this different than the worldly advice offered for self-improvement?

GOING DEEPER:

Let's take a closer look at Jesus' lack of irritableness and how we are to follow His example from Philippians 2. Read verses 1-13.

1. What is the repeated two-letter word in verse 1? Write out each of the four sentences in which it is used.
2. Is Paul expressing uncertainty in this verse, as if these things may or may not be true (i.e. there may or may not be any encouragement in Christ)? Explain what Paul is saying here. (Feel free to consult a commentary if you're unsure of the answer.)
3. How is verse 2 connected to verse 1? What commands does Paul give to his readers?

4. Verses 3 and 4 both contain a contrast. Write those below in the appropriate places.

Verse 3:

BUT

Verse 4:

BUT

5. How did Jesus exemplify this attitude of humility?
6. What did God do as a result of Jesus' obedience?
7. With Jesus as their example, what does Paul tell Christians they are to do in regards to their salvation? What makes it possible? Cite the verses that support your answer.
8. What process is being described in verses 12-13? (Todd mentioned it in the segment.)

CHAPTER THREE: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 1

1. According to Rick Thomas, what is it that a believer must be (or have) when trying to resolve relational conflict?
2. Summarize Rick Thomas' list of the eight signs of genuine affection that should be displayed in relational conflict. Include the Scripture references.
3. How well do you display these signs of affection in your relationships in general?
4. Are there some relationships in which it is more difficult for you to have genuine affection than others? If so, explain why.
5. How can you work on developing genuine affection for others in all your relationships?

GOING DEEPER:

1. How many of the above signs refer to speech, speaking or the tongue? What does this tell you?
2. Do you struggle with controlling your tongue? Do you often say things you later regret? If so, explain.
3. Do you struggle with speech that builds others up or communicates wisdom? If so, why is this a struggle for you?
4. Look up the Scripture references given for each sign of genuine affection. What do you learn about your speech and your tongue?

Psalms 141:3 –

Proverbs 10:19 –

Proverbs 15:1 -

Proverbs 16:23 -

Ephesians 4:29 -

5. Do any of the above verses give you instruction or insight into helping you with your struggle(s) from Questions 3 and 4, above? Carefully think this through before answering.

CHAPTER FOUR: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 2

1. In relational conflict, what reveals our heart attitude toward the person with which we are in conflict?
2. Summarize Rick Thomas' list of signs that a person has a wrong heart attitude toward the person with which they are in conflict.
3. If you find yourself in fights often with people, what does that reveal about your heart condition?
4. Is there anyone in your life who displays one or more of these signs? Describe what it is like to be in conflict with this person.
5. Which signs best describe you when you're in conflict with another person?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Biblically speaking, what is the heart? Consult a commentary if you're not sure.
2. Read the following Scriptures passages and observe what you learn about the heart. Record your observations below.

Jeremiah 17:9 -

Proverbs 4:23 -

Matthew 15:18 -

Mark 7:21 -

3. Is the situation hopeless or can your heart be changed? Read the following verses and record your observations.

Psalms 51:10 -

Ezekiel 11:19 (This is speaking of the New Covenant) -

Ephesians 3:16-17 -

4. If you are in the New Covenant, (that is, you've repented of your sin and are trusting in Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation), then you have a new heart and have been given the Holy Spirit to live within your heart who helps you to walk in obedience to God's Word. But this doesn't mean you will never sin. So what are you to do when your heart reveals the presence of hatred still in it as described in the DVD?

Read the following passages and record what they teach you about your heart and the ongoing battle with sin. Then write out how you can apply this to your sin issues.

Scripture	What it says	Personal Application
Psalms 51:17		
James 4:8		
Psalms 119:11		
Hebrews 4:12		
I John 1:9		

CHAPTER FIVE: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 3

1. What gospel truth should a Christian remember as he works through relational conflict with another person?
2. What posture should a believer take toward the other person to ensure a satisfying and redemptive resolution?
3. In the context of relational conflict, what must a Christian do to be more Christ-like in the situation?
4. What are five practical ways that a Christian can show Christ-like love to others, particularly those with whom they are in conflict?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Write out Romans 5:8 below.
2. According to Romans 5:8, when did God love us? How did He demonstrate His love?
3. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the condition of someone before God saves them.

Romans 5:6 –

Romans 5:10 –

Ephesians 2:3 –

Colossians 1:21 -

4. When did Christ die for us? Use your answers to Question 3 to finish the sentence.
5. Jesus speaks about loving our enemies in Matthew 5. Read verses 43-48 and answer the following questions:

What does Jesus quote in verse 43? Write down the original Scripture that He is quoting.

The second part of the quote is not in the text you found for question 5. What might this tell you? Read a commentary to find out why Jesus included this phrase with the OT command.

Jesus turns their man-made law upside down. What two things does He command?

According to this passage, how does God treat the righteous and the unrighteous? Use a commentary to learn what theologians call this.

How would you describe the way that the tax collectors and the Gentiles love?

How would you describe the love Jesus is calling His followers to show?

How does verse 48 connect to the previous verses? Think through it yourself and write your answer down before consulting a commentary, if needed.

CHAPTER SIX: The Biblical Response to Anger, Part 1

1. What is righteous indignation? Who is our example to follow?
2. Summarize the principles for overcoming anger based on Ephesians 4:25-32. Cite the specific verse or verses that support each principle.
3. Todd mentions two things the Bible calls us to do when we're mistreated. What are they? Find the verses that support this.
4. Why are Christians called to be kind when they're mistreated?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Think about a situation where you felt mistreated. How did you respond? Think about what you did well and what you did not do well. Record your thoughts below.
2. How did Jesus respond when he was judged wrongly and sentenced to die a criminal's death on a cross? Read Isaiah 53:7 and I Peter 1:21-23 and record how Jesus responded.

Isaiah 53:7 -

I Peter 1:23 -

3. According to Peter, how was Jesus able to remain quiet? Why did He not try to defend Himself?

4. With Jesus as our example, how are we to relate to others according to I Peter 3:8?

5. Verse 9 has a contrast between what we are not to do and what we are to do. Write the contrast below in the appropriate places.

We are not to: _____

or

We are to: _____

6. Do these verses mean we are never to speak up for ourselves or speak up for what is right? Think about what you learned from the DVD and the verses you just read in this Going Deeper section to help you answer.

7. Write down your reflections from this chapter.

CHAPTER SEVEN: The Biblical Response to Anger, Part 2

1. What are the six questions we should ask ourselves before we respond in anger? Include the Scripture verses that are mentioned.
2. What should be our attitude towards people who have wronged us? How does this attitude affect how we confront their sin?
3. Do you struggle with anger? (If you're not sure, ask someone who knows you!) What do you think is at the root of your anger issue? Cite Scripture to support your answer, if needed.
4. What steps can you take now to help you remember to think through the six questions before the next time you get angry?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Anger is a serious sin and often results in destructive consequences. Read the following accounts of men in the Bible who acted out in anger. Summarize their stories below.

Moses – Numbers 20:1-12; Deuteronomy 34:1-5 (This event probably takes place in the 40th year of the Israelites wanderings in the wilderness.)

Balaam – Numbers 22:22-34. *(Balaam was a pagan prophet who was asked by the King of Moab to curse Israel. God had warned Balaam not to do it, but He did allow him to go see the King. Balaam's motive for going, however, was for the reward the King promised him if he would curse Israel.)*

Jonah – Jonah 3 & 4

2. What do you think prompted each man's anger?

Moses:

Balaam:

Jonah:

3. Can you relate to any of these reasons for becoming angry?

4. What is the similarity between Moses and Balaam in how they acted when angry?

5. How do you act when you're angry?

6. What can you learn from the examples of these men?

CHAPTER EIGHT: Seven Conditions for Confrontation

1. Summarize each of the seven conditions you should consider before confronting someone about their sin.
2. Have you ever confronted another Christian over a sin issue? If so, did you use any of the conditions listed above? Summarize how the conversation went and what you would do differently in the future.
3. Have you ever been confronted by another Christian about your sin? If so, were any of the conditions listed above used in the conversation with you? Summarize how the confrontation went, and what you learned from it.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What is the difference between a sin and a preference issue or personal conviction? Why is it important to know the difference in the context of confronting a fellow believer?

2. Romans 14 gives us insight into the issue of personal preferences and principles of conscience. Read the chapter and answer the following questions:

What issues does Paul address in verses 1-10 that can be defined as personal preferences or convictions?

What two groups does Paul address?

Briefly summarize what these issues were in the early church. Use a commentary if necessary.

What instructions does Paul give to each group of Christians?

Those Strong in Faith

Those Weak in Faith

What does he tell both groups in verse 5?

What is the reason Paul gives for Christians not judging each other for personal convictions?

What does this passage teach about how we should view our life and our death? To whom do we belong?

What does this mean for how we live and the decisions we make regarding issues of personal preference or conviction?

CHAPTER NINE: The Marks of True Humility

1. According to J.C. Ryle, what are the defining characteristics of a Christian man (or woman) following after humility?
2. According to James 4:1-2, what is the source of our conflicts and quarrels? What is the end result? What does this look like in real life?
3. Find the Scripture passage that supports the idea that murder can be more than the act of killing a person and write it below. Be sure to note who said it.
4. According to J.C. Ryle, a godly man will understand the humility found in the statements of seven godly men of old. List the men and what they said.
5. Can you relate to any of the statements expressed in Question 4? Explain.

GOING DEEPER:

1. According to James 4:6, how does God respond to the proud and to the humble?
2. Summarize the following examples from 2 Chronicles of God opposing the proud but giving grace to the humble.

Chapter 32:24-26

Chapter 33:9-13

Chapter 33:21-34:2

Chapter 34:24-28

CHAPTER TEN: How to Grow in Humility

1. List below the practices of the early church as found in Acts 2:42. Note how often the early Christians participated in these things. Also include any commentary Todd may have given about them.
2. What are these practices called and what is their purpose?
3. What (or Who) is the thread that runs through the means of grace?
4. How does God transform us? Cite the Scripture that tells us this.
5. If we desire to be more humble, what should we do?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What are Christians commanded to do in regards to humility? Look at the following verses and record your observations.

Ephesians 4:1-2 -

Colossians 3:12 -

1 Peter 5:5 -

How are these exhortations different than a command to just “be humble”? Explain your answer.

2. Let's look at how we go about doing what the above verses tell us to do. Read Colossians 3:1-13 and answer the following questions:

Verse 1 is an *if/then* statement. What is the *if* and what is the *then*?

What is the contrast in verse 2?

Why?

What does this mean for how we view the members of our earthly body?

Verse 8 begins with a contrast word. What is it and what is being contrasted?

In verses 9-10, what did Paul tell his readers they had done?

How does Paul describe the new self?

Where does this knowledge come from and what is its goal?

How does Paul describe his readers in verse 12?

What does he command them to do because of their relationship to God?

What is the motivation for a Christian to forgive another?

3. Read through the passage again, and list all the exhortations Paul gives in this passage before he calls his readers to put on humility.

4. What needs to happen before someone can put on humility?

5. How can remembering who we are in Christ, as described in verse 12, help us to set sin aside and put on the virtues listed there?

CHAPTER ELEVEN: How to Provoke your Child to Anger, Part 1

1. Describe God's feelings, positive and negative, toward those who are in Christ.
2. Why can God never be angry with His children (those who are in Christ)?
3. What is the purpose of parenting?
4. List 6 of the 16 ways that a parent can provoke their child to anger. (The rest of the list is continued in the next chapter.)
5. What makes Christian parenting different from secular parenting?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What does Ephesians 6:4 tell fathers (parents) to do and not to do?
2. If you are a parent, list those actions and attitudes in the list under Question 4 that you are in a habit of displaying to your kids. What do you think is the reason for it?

If you are not a parent, evaluate your own parents' actions and behaviors in light of this list. Which did they display regularly to you? What was your overall reaction to this type of parenting?

3. If you are a parent, in light of Question 1, how can you make the necessary changes in order to not do those things that provoke your child to anger? What Scripture would help you in making these changes?

If you are not a parent, do you exhibit any of these behaviors or attitudes in other relationships in your life? What can you do to make the necessary changes? What Scripture would help you in this regard?

CHAPTER TWELVE: How To Provoke your Child to Anger, Part 2

1. Finish the list of 16 ways that parents can provoke their child to anger.
2. Why is hypocrisy such an odious sin in parenting?
3. Which behaviors from the entire list of 16 can be harmful in other relationships in life? List them here and rewrite them so they apply in a more general way.

GOING DEEPER:

Rewrite the entire list, (including those from the previous chapter), from a positive perspective so that it becomes a list of 16 Ways to Encourage Your Child's Spirit.

Then, find a Bible verse that supports each point on the list. The first one is done for you.

How to Encourage Your Child's Spirit

16) **By using words that build-up and encourage – Ephesians 4:29**

15)

14)

13)

12)

11)

10)

9)

8)

7)

6)

5)

4)

3)

2)

1)

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Where to Go for Conflict Resolution

1. If you happen to be a human being, what else do you happen to be?
2. What inevitably will happen when two sinners are together?
3. How do we often try to resolve conflict?
4. What was the point of Todd's example of cigarette butts buried in the snow? How does this relate to conflict?
5. Where should we go to find resolution when we're in conflict with someone? Why? Of what does it remind us?

GOING DEEPER:

1. If you're the type of person who overpowers people with your words or arguments, why do you do this?
2. If you know someone who overpowers people with their words or arguments, how do you respond to them when you find yourself in conflict with them?

3. Do you struggle with forgiving others? Are you the type of person who holds grudges against people who've wronged them? Explain your answer.

4. How often do you think of the price that was paid for God to forgive you? Give as honest an answer as you are able.

5. According to Psalm 103:10-13, how has God dealt with us?

What do we call the act of not giving someone what they deserve?

How does the psalmist describe God's love? And to whom is this love directed?

How thoroughly has He removed our sin from us?

Why has He done this for us? What earthly comparison does the psalmist use?

6. In light of how God has treated you, is there any excuse for treating others with less mercy and compassion? If you struggle in this area, what can you do to be more forgiving?

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If you have questions about what it means to be a Christian, please go to www.wretched.tv. You'll find helpful (and free!) information on how you can know for sure that you're saved.