Proverbs: Conflict

***Introduction***

 Note: Other passages in Proverbs (such as ones that teach about ‘rebuking’)

1. **Conflict should be a last resort, peace should always be our aim.**



20:3 It is to a man's honour to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

 “Blessed are the Peacemakers”

1. **Things that cause conflict**

Questions: Am I regularly in conflict (arguments, quarrels, strife etc.)? If so, some of the following may be the underlying problem.

1. ***Pride***

13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

17:19 He who loves a quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction.

*Hallmarks of pride: contempt for others; confidence in self; refusing advice; self-promotion:*

30:32 "If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth! 33 For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife."

1. ***Greed***

28:25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

1. ***Anger***

29:22 An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

1. ***Being meddlesome***

26:17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

Jesus and the brother who wanted him to intervene in his inheritance problems.

1. ***Wrong priorities***

17:1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

1. **Truths & character traits that help in conflict**
2. ***Conflict cannot always be avoided***

22:10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. 21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

29:9 If a wise man goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace.

Remember Jesus

1. ***Remember it is far easier to start than stop conflict***

17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

1. ***Inappropriate conflict can do terrible damage***

18:19 An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

1. ***Learn Contentment***

See 30:32-33, 28:25 and 17:1 above.

1. ***Practice Patience***

15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

1. ***Willingly forgive***

17:9 He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

 24:29 Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did."

1. ***Develop Faith***

See 28:25 above.