



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline*

TOPIC:       **God's Design for Conflict**  
TEXT:       **Ephesians 4:25-32**

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** You see two distinctive play patterns when watching an ice hockey game. Some players use their skating and puck-handling skills to finesse their way through the defensive line. They avoid conflict as much as possible. But others seem to relish conflict. In fact, they go out of their way to flatten their opponents. In the early days of marriage, people often try to dodge conflict as much as possible. We paper over our differences and pretend we're not hurt by disagreements. But eventually, we lose control, and a fight erupts. The Bible doesn't comment on the fact that people have differences. The way to success is not to ignore the problem or to fight the other person but to work out our conflicts with mutual love and respect. In Ephesians 4, we find ways to handle conflicts constructively. Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When you were growing up, how did your parents handle conflicts and anger? Describe their initial responses to conflict.
2. What common ways of handling conflict does this passage condemn? Explain.
3. In verse 25, we are told to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully" because we are members of one body. What subtle forms of lying or not speaking the truth occur between husbands and wives? Give examples.
4. How is it possible to be angry and not sin (vs. 26-27)? Discuss.
5. Recall a time when you felt very angry. Would you have been more likely to say, "I am angry," than to say, "You make me angry"? Which is more accurate and why?
6. What is the connection between how long we are angry and the likelihood of sinning?
7. In a conflict, how would the instruction in verse 29 protect your relationship as you work out your differences?
8. Since the command not to grieve the Spirit is placed here (v. 30), what kinds of behavior must grieve the Spirit?

9. The apostle Paul dramatically contrasts the two ways to handle conflict (vs. 31-32). How would the positive attitudes and actions cancel out each of the destructive behaviors in verse 31?
10. How do you feel when your spouse or a friend treats you in the ways described in verse 32?
11. How does verse 32 answer the argument that some hurts are too terrible to forgive?
12. Marital conflicts generally focus on money, rearing children, sex, in-laws, and how to divide the workload. How could the principles in this passage change how we, as Christians, handle any of the conflicts mentioned here?