

Others may object and say it's only a "personality conflict." The problem with such terminology is that it is wholly unscriptural. There is no scriptural basis for being out of fellowship with a brother in Christ because of personality differences. In most cases, when the so-called personality differences are boiled down, they spell "sin." If personality differences are legitimate cause of conflict, then heaven isn't going to be as harmonious as was once thought. Since people will take their personalities along with them, then we can expect the conflicts to persist.

While it is true that we are drawn to certain people more than others, grace makes it possible for us to love all kinds of people. The way to resolve personality conflicts is to stop using personality as an excuse for being on the outs with another Christian.

Because interpersonal conflict is caused by sin, repair must utilize the means God has provided to deal with sin. Four steps are necessary: repentance, confession, forgiveness, and restoration.

a. Repentance

Jesus taught His team of disciples in Luke 17:3, "If your brother sins, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him." The context of this remark was Jesus' concern for His disciples' relationships with others, including each other. Norval Geldenhuys comments on the context, particularly vss. 1 and 2:

The Savior here addresses His disciples expressly and warns them (cf. vs. 3a: 'Take heed to yourselves') against the danger that their example, their words, their attitude or neglect of duty may do spiritual harm to others (especially the weaker ones in the