

## **Be Different (Part II) – Domestic Dispute**

1/17/2010

1. In this study we consider relationships with our brothers and sisters, whether in our biological or church families. Why is it that maintaining good relationships with people we know pretty well can be harder than striking up a friendship with a total stranger?
2. Having said all of that, why is it worth it to try to enhance our relationships within our biological or church family?
3. Relationships are all about connecting with others. This activity competes for our time and attention with our pursuit of achievements. Describe key components of “connecting” and “achieving” and where they might complement each other and where they are in obvious conflict.
4. In light of this tension between connecting and achieving, read Matt. 5:13-16 and try to apply those verses to this discussion.
5. Why in Matt. 5: 21 – 26 does Jesus instruct the people to postpone their sacrifices to God until they have resolved their broken relationships?
6. Describe the difference between “tension” and “conflict” and why tension is normal, but conflict is a problem.
7. What is wrong with wanting to be heard?
8. Jesus says if there is conflict with another person we are to go to them and be reconciled. Whether or not this will be successful depends on a number of characteristics, motives, and attitudes that both parties have. Describe examples of each.

a). Open Mind vs. Closed Mind

b) Integrity vs. Duplicity

c) Constructive Intent vs Destructive Intent

d) Soft Answers vs. Harsh Words

9. So is the solution to avoid all disagreements? Read Luke 17:3-5 to get some guidelines on what is expected. How do we put this into practice?