

Resolving Conflict

Based on Lesson #333

Recently the hottest news item was the “Occupy Wall Street” campaign, where the “have-nots” protested against the “haves” to draw attention to the conflict that exists between the winners and the losers. This conflict is no different than other conflicts we see on the screen of our dream; countries at war, nature vs. man, businesses, neighbors, friends, families; all in conflict. No matter how much we try to get along, perceptions are still varied, opinions are in opposition, differences divide us, judgments are made, and those who believe they are right stand against those who believe *they* are right. Why does conflict still remain our experience despite all of our efforts to get along? Because we are not resolving the conflict where it is! The conflict we see in the world is just a projection of the acute conflict within our mind. As long as we try to solve the conflict on the screen there can be no peace because the world perceived through a mind that is in conflict MUST be in conflict.

What is our internal conflict? Before the Christ Mind entertained a thought of separation, there was no conflict. God’s Thoughts of Love and Oneness do not conflict and therefore, we were at total peace. Our peace was disturbed when we began to believe in thoughts that conflicted with God’s Thoughts: oneness *and* separation, sameness *and* differences; love *and* fear. As soon as these conflicting thoughts arose, we could have laughed them away; but instead we continued to think and believe all of these conflicting thoughts. Our mind now believed in two realities, two truths, two perceptions, two identities and believing in the impossible created the greatest conflict of all. We wanted to return to love, but we now feared love because of our thoughts.

In lesson #333 we are given the way out of this conflict through forgiveness. Forgiveness is ACIM’s way of releasing the fear of love by teaching us through miracles, that the impossible thoughts and images simply are not true and do not exist. What is our part in the forgiveness process? It begins with our willingness for awareness. When we are in distress, seeing the opposite to God, and believing the impossible, we are willing to be aware of the deep calling within us to be free of what does not belong in the Mind of God’s Son. In other words, we want the conflict within our mind to be resolved. We then must take the next step to be free of these thoughts. Choose one over the other.

Forgiveness is choosing which of the conflicting thoughts are true and sticking to the one you chose no matter what evidence there is to the contrary. ***“The (only) way out of conflict is to choose one (as true) over the other.”*** When you hear the voice of the ego, choose Holy Spirit. When you feel fear, choose love. When you believe you are a body, choose your identity as spirit. When you see an opposite to God, choose Reality. When you see separation, choose oneness. When you believe you fear love, choose love anyway. Remember the conflict is merely a conflict between God’s Thoughts and the thoughts of our sick mind. There is only God’s Will, God’s Reality, God’s Love, innocence, and eternal Life despite what we believe. If we make a choice of which one we want to BE the truth, the conflict dissolves. How can two remain when you no longer want both? How can there be conflict when only one remains?