

## God's Solutions to Drama

Romans 12:17-21

### Preface

The younger generation has a language all their own. They use lots of acronyms and words in ways not anticipated. These days if something is "bad", that may very well mean it is very good.

One word young people use far more than used in the past is the word "drama". That word was previously used to describe a suspenseful book or movie. Today drama is used to refer to conflict, strife and friction between two or more people.

I think the younger generation did a good job of expanding the implications of that word and using it more efficiently. Very often, even for Christians, we have too much drama in our lives.

We spend entirely too much time fretting over conflicts and hurt feelings with other people. I know people who have not spoken to loved ones in years because they got their feelings hurt somewhere along the way.

### Scripture Text

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written:

*"It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

<sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21 NIV

### Introduction

Some people are just surrounded by drama. Some folks are a drama magnet. They have tentacles like a shrimp that extent out

are constantly feeling for something to hurt them or offend their pride. And the drama begins.

**Satan loves to see Christians scrap.** When we argue and fuss, Satan sells tickets and promotes the fight so he can show the lost why they do not need Christ.

God's word provides straightforward answers to how we can have good productive relationships. Write these down because you will have drama in your life.

The solutions to drama that I am about give you are very powerful. They are words of wisdom directly from our Creator. The solutions to drama are guaranteed to work if used sincerely.

### 1. Put others above yourself

Jesus said, "<sup>34</sup> A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 NIV

Over and over God's word tells us to put others above ourselves and yet it is so hard to do.

Even in the marriage relationship, this is God's answer to the drama. Ephesians 5 tells wives to put the husband above themselves and for husbands to love their wives like Christ loves the church. The point is we are to put the other above self.

Illus: Instead, we argue over who is getting the raw deal when it comes to finances, household chores, the children, etc.

How many arguments blow out of proportion because of our pride and our refusal to put the other person above ourselves?

*Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble (1 John 2:9-10).*

When we learn to put others ahead of ourselves, our motives and our lives become sincere and genuine. God's word says there is nothing to make us stumble. In other words, we are walking straight without the crooked influence of selfishness.

## 2. Address conflict as instructed

Just as God's word is clear about how we should love others, it is equally clear on how we should address conflict between Christians.

<sup>15</sup> *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'* <sup>17</sup> *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Matthew 18:15-17*

When people get their feelings hurt or get offended, they rarely handle the matter the way God would have it be handled.

Some people deal with conflict by bottling it up inside. Others handle it by telling everyone they can with the exception of the person who offended them. Still others make threats and demonize the offending party. None of the methods are Biblical.

When someone hurts us our natural tendency is to hurt them back. But this is not Biblical. God's word is perfectly clear on the matter of how conflicts should be handled by Christians.

The first step in resolving conflict is to keep the matter private. When we fail to handle conflict privately or when we take our complaints to other people, we're in direct disobedience to God's Word. This leads to unnecessary hurt feelings and damage to the Church that could have been avoided.

I have seen more damage done in churches by people who go around talking about things to everyone except the person they

need to speak with. It is easy to discuss the matter with everyone else but the right thing to do is to go to the other party involved.

Put simply, if you aren't willing to sit down and discuss the matter with the person who offended you, then just shut-up about it.

## 3. Stop worrying and start trusting

God's word tells us, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God."* Philippians 4:6 NIV

Worry / Anxious: (Greek – *to be pulled in different directions*, Anglo-Saxon: *to be strangling or choking over concern*).

Worry is Satan's most effective tool. It is Satan's best friend for distracting Christians from serving God. Worrying is a powerful disabling device. Worry is like **a disease that shuts us down**. It causes us to **lose sight** of our purpose and **become totally self centered**.

Illus: Worry is like a notebook computer in sleep mode. Worrying reduces us to a state of bare minimum ability and output.

Over 90% of the things we worry about never happen. We worried for nothing. Worrying is like paying interest on money you never got.

Is worrying a sin? You bet it is. Worry is a subtle form of disbelief in the idea that God is in control. Worry is faith in reverse. No wonder Satan love's it!

**What is the treatment for worry?** It is prayer and thanksgiving. We should put out concerns in perspective before God, make our needs known to Him and trust the outcome to Him.

Trusting the outcome to God means trusting that He is in control and He knows what is best in every situation.

#### 4. Experience the power of forgiveness

There is enormous power in forgiveness and un-forgiveness.

Un-forgiveness can eat you alive from the inside. Harboring resentment will slowly steal the joy from your life as you brood over being wronged.

God's word tells us we are to forgive one another in order to experience the joy of Christ.

<sup>13</sup> *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 NIV*

Many people today are living in a painful and distorted world because of their failure to forgive.

People get hurt in all sorts of relationships; marriage, parents, children, employment and even church. Some people can't move past the hurt because they refuse or do not know how to forgive.

If you fail to forgive, you are destined to a life of anger and resentment; boiling inside you.

Without forgiveness, there will be no happiness. Failure to forgive will choke out your ability to love freely.

**Definition of real forgiveness: "It no longer stands between us."**

God gives us the ability to forgive and he gives us the example of forgiveness. If we do not forgive, we are sacrificing our relationship with God. Forgiveness restores our ability to have genuine worship with God.

<sup>14</sup> *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* <sup>15</sup> *But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15 NIV*

If you have the love of Christ and have truly experienced God's forgiveness then you will be compelled to forgive others. We have no right to refuse forgiveness.

#### Conclusion

Quote: I have lived my life selfishly. I have worried about myself and what I looked like in front of others my whole life. I considered myself to be a Christian. I prayed daily but I prayed God would watch out for me. It wasn't until recently I gave up on me and started praying for others that my life started to change. I have been more blessed in my life, since I cut the "me" out and started loving others. Bryan...

Illus: Yesterday was planting day at our hunting camp. My son and I worked our fingers to the bone. With just the two of us, we had to work fast and smart. We had a giant 1400 lb. bag of oats on the trailer that had to be transferred to the hopper of the spreader. We backed the spreader up to the trailer and began scooping out the oats with 5 gallon buckets. As we got lower in the bag, the process became more difficult as the top of the bag would droop over in the way. When filling spreader for the last time, we were finally able to lift the bag and pour the remainder of seed into the hopper. There at the bottom of the bag was this little rope holding a funnel type piece of the bag closed. We could have made our job 100 times easier if we had just known about this little secret.

God's Word provides the secrets to living a happy and peaceful life. You have probably heard these words many times before. The problem doesn't come in understanding these principles but rather in implementing them.

The problem is pride gets in the way.

We are all too proud to be willing to put others above ourselves.

We are too proud to go to someone with conflict.

And, we are too proud to forgive those who have wronged us.

Are you ready to trust God's solutions to solving the drama in your life?