

NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD

The devil is very sly in the spiritual warfare we face. One of the things he tries to get us to do is focus on the natural. This would cause us to miss what's going on behind the scenes in the spiritual – what the devil is really doing. That's why the scripture tells us not to battle with flesh and blood.

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places}.”

When we put our eyes on people being the problem, we totally miss the real war as we fight with our neighbor. The Bible says, for instance, in Revelation 12:10 that the devil accuses day and night. None of us actually see the devil accusing us. The face we see is our neighbor, relative, etc., who the devil is working through to pull us down. Satan wants us to take offense and have unforgiveness and bitterness towards other Christians, so we see them as the problem. Worse yet, is the fact that when we do this, we put ourselves at odds with God – in a place of not being forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15), as well as out of covenant with the brother who is in covenant with God (1 John 4:20-21).

1 John 4:20-21

“If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”

We are to be restorers (Galatians 6:1) and to function in that capacity that we shouldn't take offense in the first place. We should forgive automatically so that our love will cover a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20

“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Additionally, when a brother does sin against you or anyone else, you should forgive him right away. If not, you will not be able to go to him with the right heart – one that wants to restore (Galatians 6:1) rather than one that wants to merely confront.

Matthew 18:15

“And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”