

PROVERBS, LESSON 13: SOLVING CONFLICTS

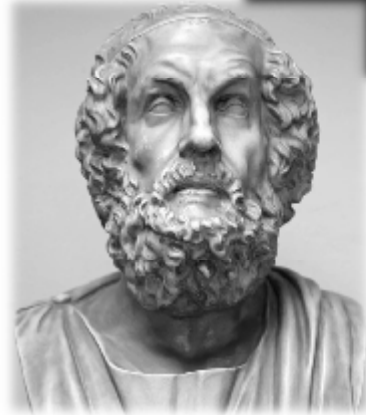


- Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before a dispute breaks out (Prov. 17:14).
- An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars (Prov. 18:19).



SON OF ATREUS, WHAT MANNER
OF SPEECH HAS ESCAPED THE
BARRIER OF YOUR TEETH?

- HOMER -

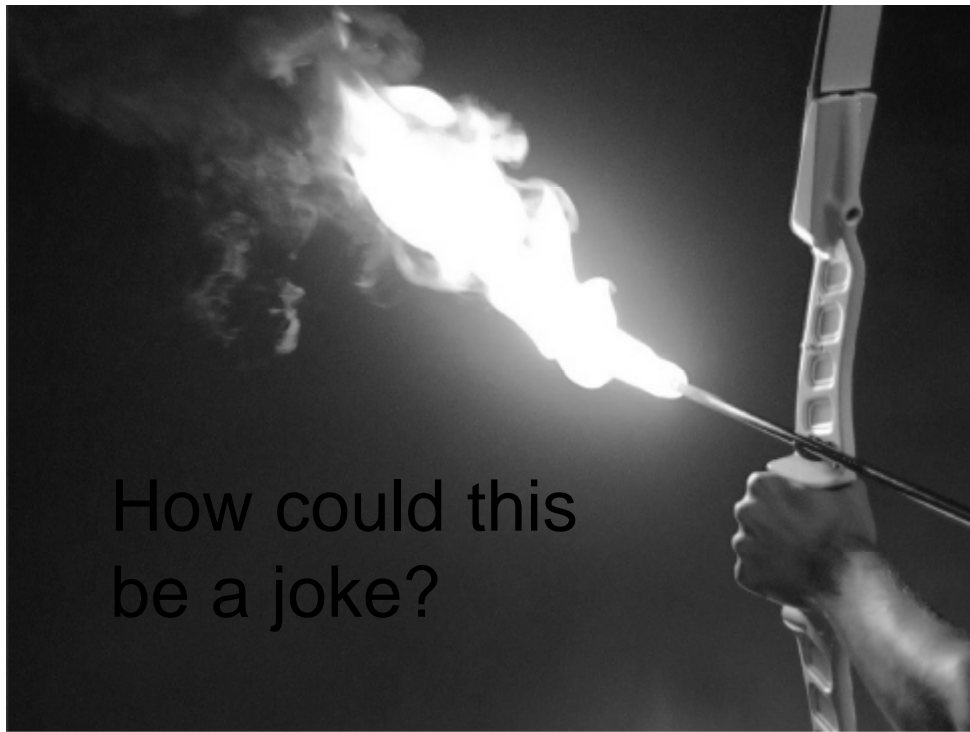


ATTITUDES OF BRAWLERS

- Hatred (10:12)
- Insolence / Arrogance / Pride (13:10)
- Mockery / Cynicism (22.10)
- Contentiousness (26.21)
- Greed (28.25)
- Anger / Hot-Headedness (29.22)

Would you grab their ears?





How could this
be a joke?

CONDUCT OF BRAWLERS

- Meddling in another's business (26.17)
- Lying and trying to excuse it as joking (26.18-19)
- Foolish Self-Exaltation, Scheming, Churning (30.32-33)

CONDUCT OF A FOOL

- He speaks inappropriately (18.2).
- He's always ready to fight (20.3).
- He fails to see reason (29.9).
- He drinks excessively (23:29-32)

A HOT TEMPER

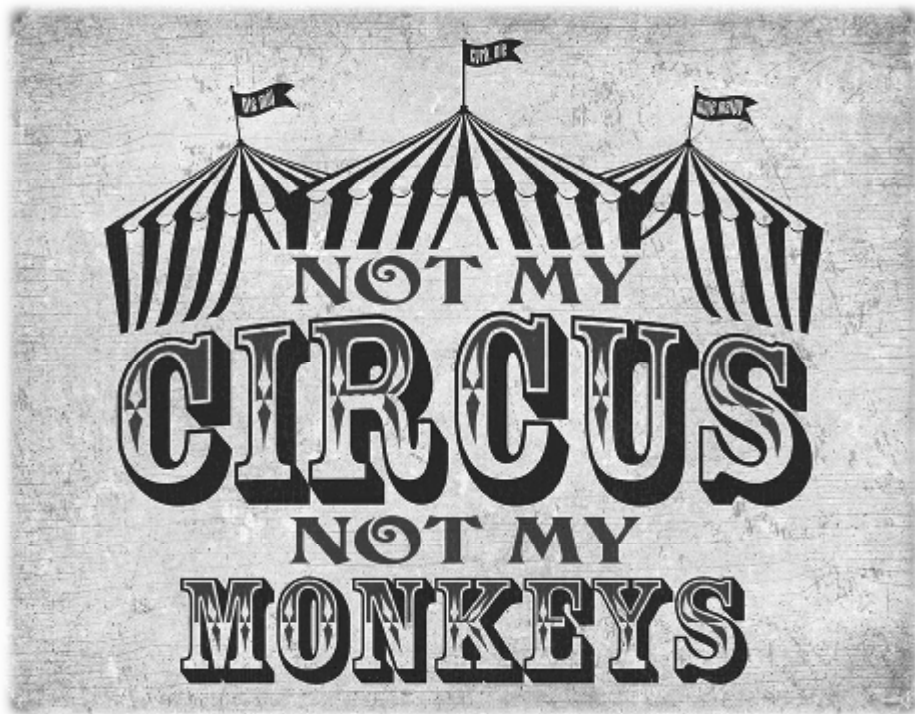
- Is foolish (29:11)
- Stirs up strife (15:18)
- Causes a person to commit many sins (29:22)
- Makes one vulnerable (25:28)
- Disqualifies a man for church leadership (Titus 1:5-7)

ONE WHO AVOIDS CONFLICT

- Has a contented spirit (17:1)
- Is slow to anger (19:11)
- Overlooks a transgression (9:11)
- Controls her temper (29:11)

CALMING CONFLICT

- Use gentle, soothing words (15:1, 4).
- Don't respond with anger (15:18).
- Practical Tips: Change the subject. Listen more than you talk. Keep the discussion private. If necessary, leave.



GOD'S VIEW

- God hates those who justify the wicked or condemn the righteous (17:15; Ex.23:7).
- Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly (John 7:24).

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN WRONGED

- Don't repay evil for evil (24:29).
- Don't seek revenge (20:22).
- Don't have a victim mentality (3:30)—You haven't really been wronged.

A PEACEMAKER

- Has joy (12:20)
- Has a bright future (Ps.37:37)
- Is blessed (Mt. 5:9)
- Is called a child of God (Mt. 5:9)

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER

- Be a growing Christian.
- Know God's Word.
- Obey the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for God to help you.

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER (practical tips)

- Learn to agree to disagree.
- Pray for your enemies.
- Avoid hot topics.
- Don't insist on your rights.
- Keep confidences.
- Defuse situations with humor.

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER (practical tips)

- Stay calm when tempers flare.
- Listen more than you talk.
- Praise & encourage others.
- Plan ahead to behave well.
- Don't be a doormat but pick your battles wisely.

GALATIANS 5:13-14

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

