

Love Dare – *Daring to Love Your Parents* – Day 35

“Love avoids fighting”

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense” Proverbs 19:11

If conflict does occur, you need to know how to fight! There’s no magic formula that will put an end to all the fighting in your home, but there are some ground rules that can keep the conflicts from escalating into an all-out war.

Just a reminder: Not fighting with your siblings will have a great influence on your parents. If you are fighting with your siblings, then this puts parents on an enhanced level of battle readiness. Stop fighting with your siblings and your parents won’t be so on edge to fight with you!

1. Don’t make a big deal out of every little conflict. You have to learn to overlook some things.
2. When a problem comes up, have a cooling-off period. Give each other time to calm down and think about what alternatives might help settle the issue. Then, when you come together, agree not to blame each other. Deciding whose fault it is settles nothing. Concentrate on solving the problem.
3. Don’t call them names! Don’t use profanity or insults – they only lead to more anger. Remember *“A soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1)*.
4. Be a peacemaker. Learn to say, *“I’m sorry.”* Remember it takes two to fight. If it’s an obedience thing, you need to back down immediately. If it’s any other conflict, it’s a respect thing for the position that God has given to your parents as the leaders of your home.
5. Don’t bring up past issues. Don’t bring conflicts from the past into the current situation. This is why the forgiveness issue is so important. If you have truly forgiven them in the past, those things won’t be brought up again in a new disagreement.
6. Avoid stupid arguments. Most arguments and disagreements are over little things. Decide if it’s a major issue or not. Remember that your parents have your best interests at heart, so some things aren’t worth fighting over.

The Love Dare Challenge: Reread this list and make sure you know it well, so that you can avoid as many conflicts as possible. This week overlook one thing that has caused conflict in the past.

Pray: That God would give you the ability to overlook something that your parents do that really frustrates you.