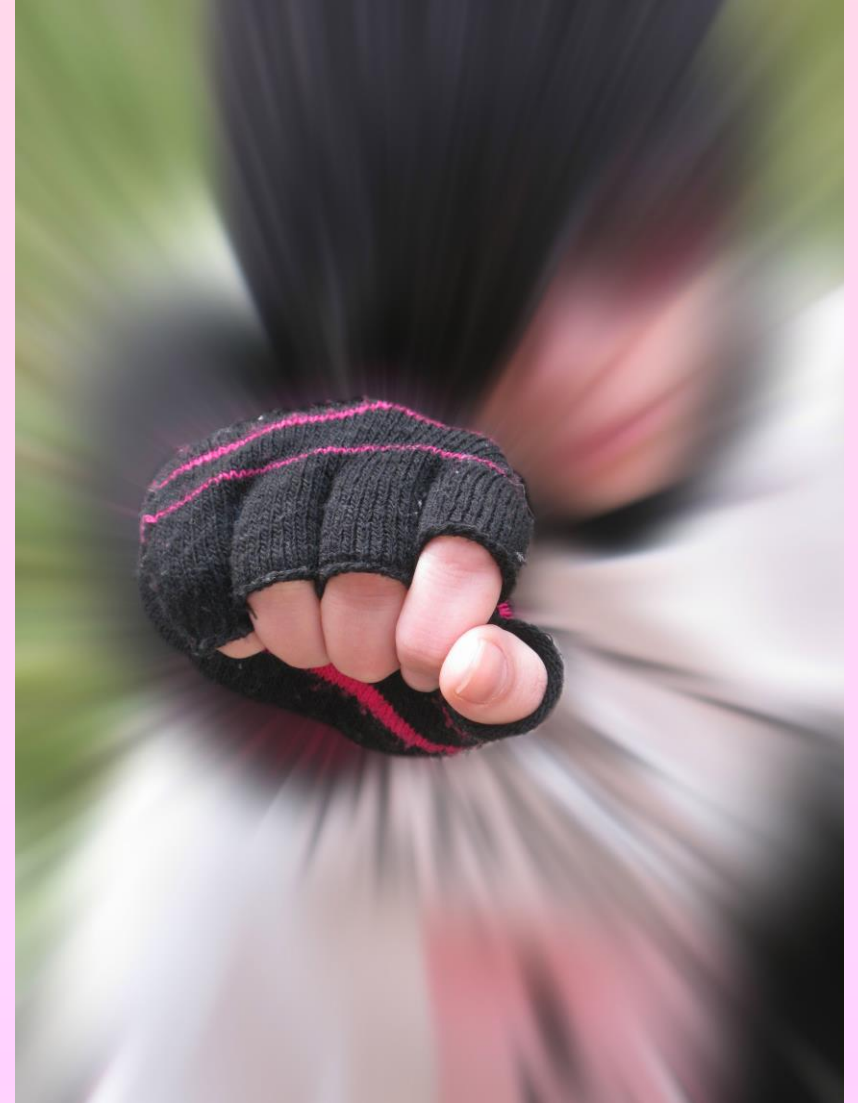


# Dealing With Fights

---

Proverbs 17: 1.



“Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.”  
Proverbs 17: 1.



# I. Introduction

The most dangerous and the most common place for conflicts to flourish is in family circles. This is why it is imperative to promote reconciliation and conflict resolutions in our churches and families. Not to be afraid of conflicts, but to work hard to solve them.



“If there is no peace in the heart of a man, there will be no peace in his family. Help him to find peace in his heart, it is as if you were contributing to the peace of his family, and even to the harmony of the society.”

(DS)



“We don't get harmony when everybody sings the same note. Only notes that are different can harmonize. The same is true with people.”  
Steve Goodier



“A happy marriage is the  
union of two good forgivers.”  
Robert Quillen



“I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.”

Mahatma Gandhi, *The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas*.



"Peace is not an absence of war. It is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, and justice."

Baruch Spinoza





“People who are prone to anxiety are nearly always people-pleasers who fear conflict and negative feelings like anger. When you feel upset, you sweep your problems under the rug because you don't want to upset anyone. You do this so quickly and automatically that you're not even aware you're doing it.”

David D. Burns



“Change means movement. Movement means friction. Only in the frictionless vacuum of a nonexistent abstract world can movement or change occur without that abrasive friction of conflict.”

Saul Alinsky



# II. Context



## Book of Proverbs – Structure

<b>INTRO</b>	1: 1 – 1: 7	The Fear of the Lord for young man: Purpose of the Book, First lesson
1	1: 8 – 9: 18	Wisdom 101 (Introduction to Wisdom)
2	10: 1 – 24: 34	Wise Children (Proverbs for the Youth)
3	25: 1 – 29: 27	Wise People (Proverbs for general public)
4	30: 1 – 30: 33	Wisdom of Agur
5	31: 1 – 31: 9	Wisdom of King Lemuel's Mother
<b>CONCL</b>	31: 10 – 31: 31	Finding the Virtuous Wife with the Fear of the Lord Conclusion of the Book, Last lesson before marriage

Our verse is part of a poem about the characteristics of solid families (16:33 – 17: 15). The structure is still chiastic, however, one can find also parallel verses, underlining the main message of the entire poem: strength of those who are willing to please the Lord, and disastrous consequences waiting those who are following their folly.



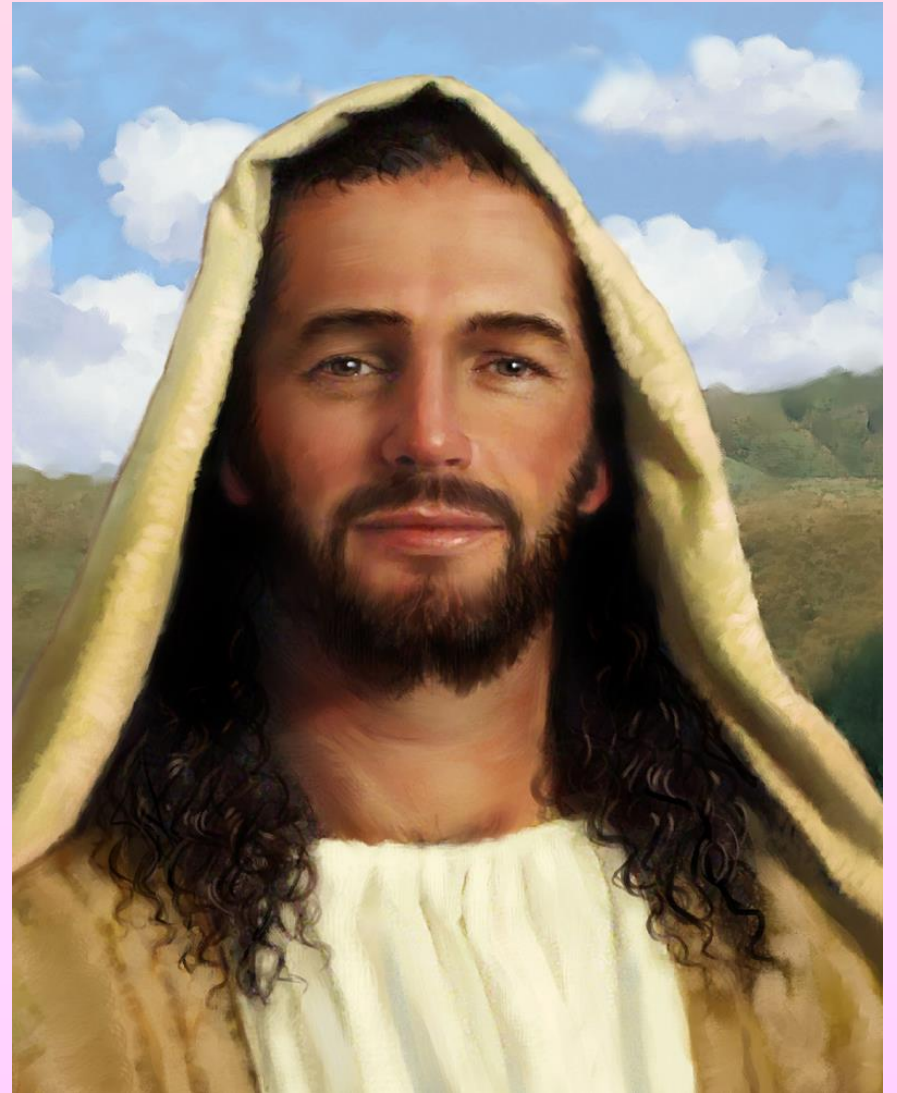
# Proverbs 16: 33 – 17:15

## A SOLID FAMILY

(House, BEITH)

16: 33 - 17: 2	<b>Shame and Strife in the House</b>	17: 3 - 17: 7	<b>Poor, Elder, and Prince</b>	16: 33 - 17: 2	<b>Evildoer, Divider, and Fool</b>	17: 13 - 17: 15	<b>Evil and Strife in the House</b>
16:33	Decision from the Lord (A)	17:3	Gold and Silver (D)	17:8	Precious Stone (D')	17:13	Evil In the House (C')
17:1	Strife and Feasts (B)	17:4	Seeking false lips (KASHAV) (E)	17:9	Seeking Love (KASA) (E')	17:14	Strife And Quarrel (B')
17:2	Shame in the House (C)	17:5	Poor Man (F)	17:10	Wise Man (F')	17:15	Abomination To the Lord (A')
		17:6	Old Man, Elder (ZAKEN) (G)	17:11	Evil Man (G')		
		17:7	Foolish Man (Speech) (H)	17:12	Foolish Man (Folly) (H')		

A direct reference to God is at the beginning (16:33) and at the end of the poem (17: 15), as well as at 17: 5, confirming that God is very close to those who are weak and unprotected. At the same time, v. 5 is a reminder that we are not allowed to diminish the value of anybody. By doing so, we are offensive toward our Creator.



The violence has no place in the life of God's children. As they are connected to their Creator, their role is to use all opportunities to prevent the spread of violence.  
(v. 1 and 14.)





# III. Living a fulfilled, peaceful life



## 1. Quietness of the poverty

“Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
than a house full of feasting with strife.”  
Proverbs 17: 1.



The poverty is not necessarily  
what we think.

“You might be poor, your  
shoes might be broken, but  
your mind is a palace.”  
Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*



Eating less will be a blessing for many. Overeating epidemic is a real challenge in our Western societies.

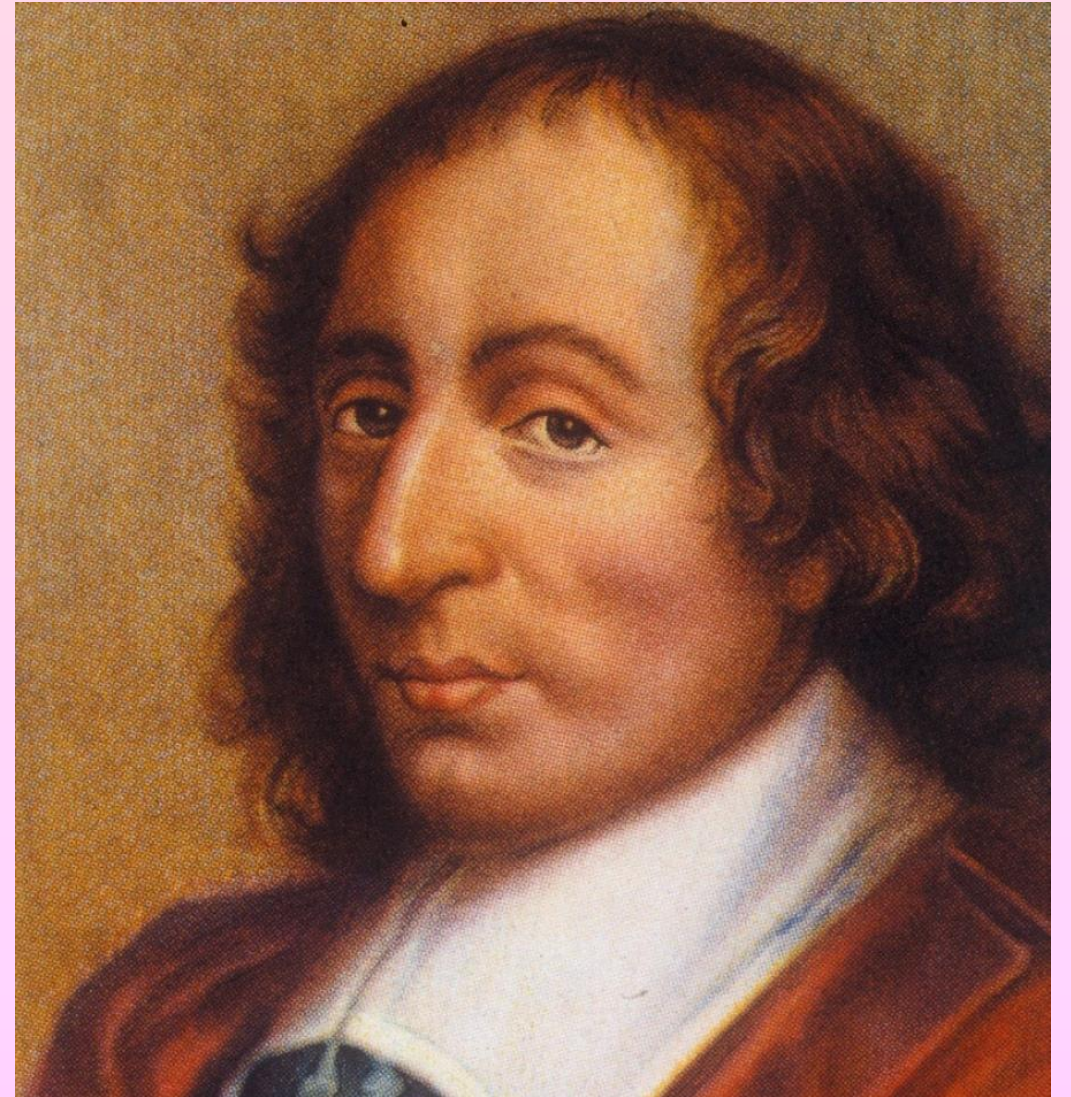
“Many of our ministers are digging their graves with their teeth. The system, in taking care of the burden placed upon the digestive organs, suffers, and a severe draft is made upon the brain. For every offense committed against the laws of health, the transgressor must pay the penalty in his own body.”

Ellen G. White, 4T, p. 408.



Too many projects, a philosophy of a mandatory success and multitasking produce detrimental consequences.

“All men's miseries derive from not being able to sit in a quiet room alone.”  
Blaise Pascal



Find joy in the ordinary

“As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler; solitude will not be solitude, poverty will not be poverty, nor weakness weakness.”

Henry David Thoreau



## 2. House full of feasting

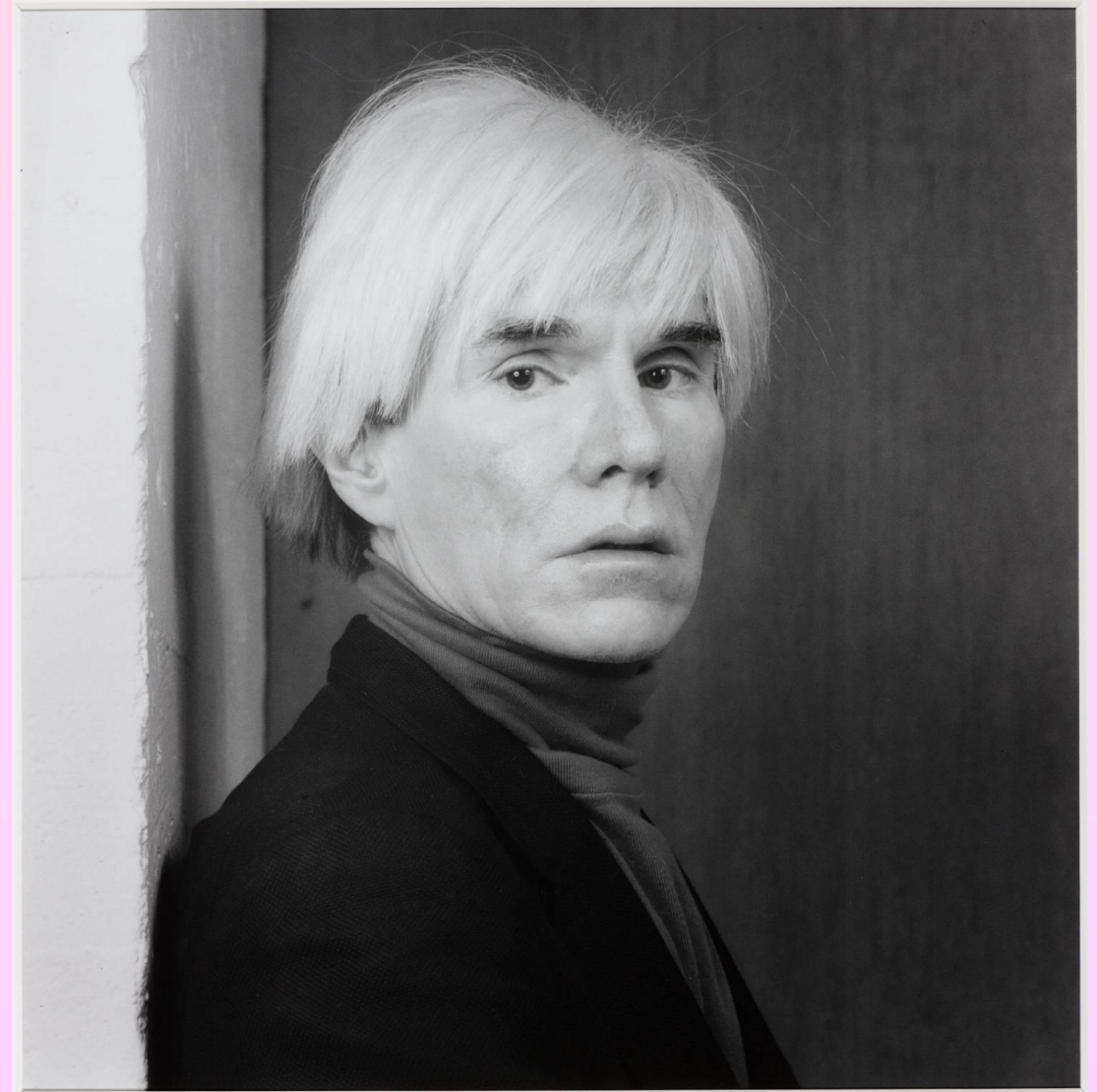
“Better is a dry morsel with  
quietness,  
than a house full of feasting  
with strife.”  
Proverbs 17: 1.



Festivities and celebrations are not necessarily bad, if they contribute to enhance our love for God and for others. However, they can put our values on trial, and very often they take too much of our time.

“I have Social Disease. I have to go out every night. If I stay home one night I start spreading rumours to my dogs.”

Andy Warhol





Our day will not necessarily be better with our celebrations. At the same time our day will be a waste of time without our contribution to a better world.

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”  
John Bunyan



“But when you give a feast,  
invite the poor, the maimed, the lame,  
the blind. And you will be blessed,  
because they cannot repay you; for  
you shall be repaid at the resurrection  
of the just.”

Luke 14: 13. 14.

“At the heart of all celebrations, there  
are the poor. If [they] are excluded, it  
is not longer a celebration. [...] A  
celebration must always be a festival  
of the poor.”

Jean Vanier, Community And Growth



“Everything being a constant carnival,  
there is no carnival left.”  
Victor Hugo



“People of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation. To be entertained is a passive state--it is to receive pleasure afforded by an amusing act or a spectacle... Celebration is a confrontation, giving attention to the transcendent meaning of one's actions.”

Abraham Joshua Heschel



### 3. Worship

“Better is a dry morsel with  
quietness,  
than a house full of feasting  
with strife.”  
Proverbs 17: 1.



The word 'full of feasting' in Hebrew (zavah) has two meanings. The first aspect is the celebration. (cf. 1 Samuel 20: 29). The second is 'sacrifice', whether the act of sacrificing or the offering. In other words we can suggest the idea of the spirit of worship.



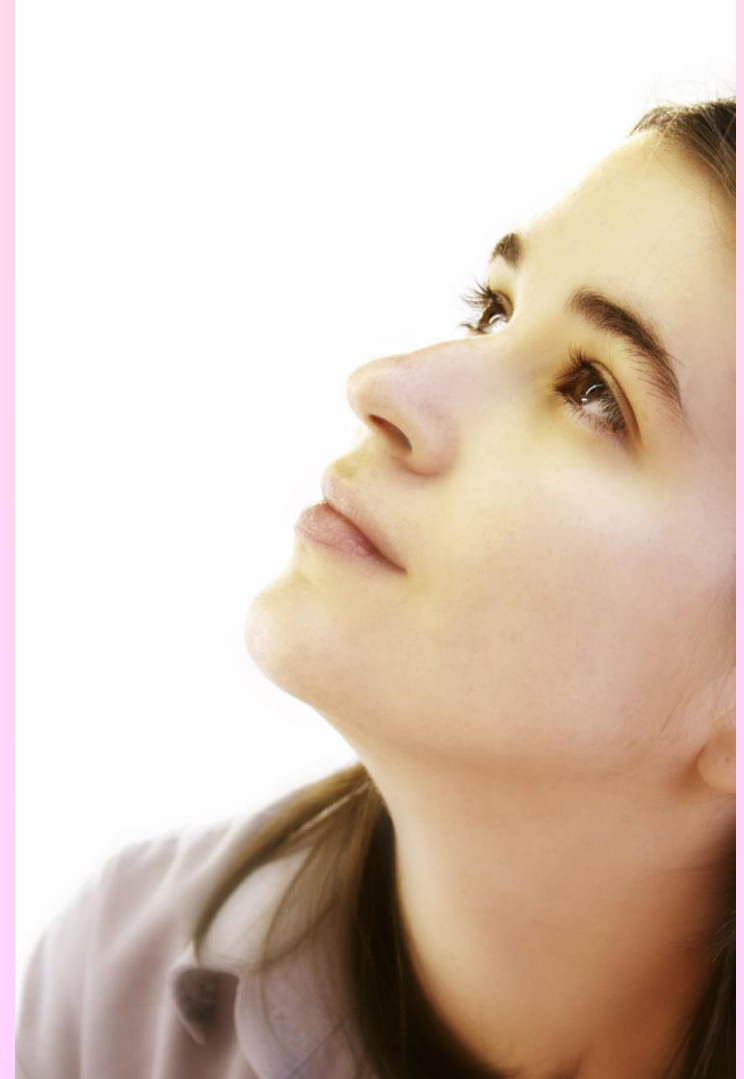
"As worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience. Holy obedience saves worship from becoming an opiate, an escape from the pressing needs of modern life."

Richard Foster



"Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which "comes upon you," but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ."

Graham Kendrick





"When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart."

Lamar Boschman



## 4. Strife

“Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.”  
Proverbs 17: 1.



Hypocrisy is the enemy of Christians.

Celebrating with others, while being mutually in conflict is not what God is expecting from His children.

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate and to strike with the fist of wickedness.”

Isaiah 58: 3. 4.



“It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit.”  
Noël Coward



“Now let's move on to the subject of how a real man treats his wife. A real man doesn't slap even a ten-dollar hooker around, if he's got any self respect, much less hurt his own woman. Much less ten times over the mother of his kids. A real man busts his ass to feed his family, fights for them if he has to, dies for them if he has to. And he treats his wife with respect every day of his life, treats her like a queen - the queen of the home she makes for their children.”

S.M. Stirling, *Dies the Fire*



# V. Conclusion



“Don’t take anything personally. Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won’t be the victim of needless suffering.

Don’t make assumptions. Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama...

Always do your best. Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to when you are sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse, and regret.”

Don Miguel Ruiz, *The Four Arguments: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom*.

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

Dalai Lama





“Never forget that you are to make the home bright and happy for yourselves and your children by cherishing the Saviour’s attributes. If you bring Christ into the home, you will know good from evil. You will be able to help your children to be trees of righteousness, bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart though the day may be ever so cloudy.

The home may be plain, but it can always be a place where cheerful words are spoken and kindly deeds are done, where courtesy and love are abiding guests.”

Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 17. 18.

# Dealing With Fights

---

Proverbs 17: 1.

