

# How To Deal With Differences Between You And Your Neighbour

**Proverbs 17:14** [Amplified Bible] *“The beginning of strife is as when water first trickles from a crack in a dam, therefore stop contention before it becomes worse and quarrelling breaks out.”*

Because we are human and all of us have unique attributes, differences of opinion are bound to happen, these need to be resolved quickly before they become major.

**Proverbs 25:8** [Amplified Bible] *“Rush not forth soon to quarrel before magistrates or elsewhere, lest you know not what to do in the end, when your neighbour has put you to shame.”*

The only people who gain from such prompt going to law are the lawyers.

**The cause of the difference may be a lack of understanding, we may not be aware of all the facts or the motive behind our neighbour’s actions.**

**What are we to do then?**

**Proverbs 25:9** [Amplified Bible] *“Argue your cause with your neighbour himself, discover not and disclose not another’s secret.”*

**Matthew 18:15** [Amplified Bible] *“If your brother wrongs you, go and show him his fault, between you and him privately. If he listens to you, you have gained a brother.”*

Every neighbour is a brother because we are all humans.

Here is the peaceful end we would like to any dispute, a closer relationship with our neighbour [brother].

But what do we do if our neighbour still remains hostile towards any reconciliation?

**Matthew 18:16** [Amplified Bible] *“But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that every word may be confirmed and upheld by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

Be sure we have all the facts and that they can be verified by others before we make any further moves.

What if this action does not bring reconciliation, what do we do next?

**Matthew 18:17** [Amplified Bible] *“If he pays no attention to them, refusing to listen and respond, tell it to the church...”*

Remind your neighbour of his future where he will be responsible before God for his unloving actions in this life. Then let him know that his un-neighbourly actions do not make you hate him personally.

**Leviticus 19:17** [Amplified Bible] *“You shall not hate your brother [neighbour] in your heart, but you shall surely rebuke your neighbour, lest you incur sin because of him.”*

We must never allow the hurtful actions of our neighbour to cause us to become bitter ourselves, but that our own loving and merciful action may eventually soften his attitude towards us.

**Proverbs 25:15** [Amplified Bible] *“Long forbearing, calmness of spirit and soft speech breaks down the most bonelike resistance.”*

**Romans 12:20-21** [Amplified Bible] *“If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he be thirsty give him water to drink, for by so doing you will heap burning coals [furnace coals that melts hard metal] upon his head. Do not let yourself be overcome by evil [your enemy’s bad example], but overcome or master evil with good.”*

**Love towards our neighbour can in the end melt any hard feeling he may have towards us and others.**