



E-amine yourself when conflicts come.

Matthew 5:23-24

“Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother has something against you. Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.”

Imagine what it would be like to have X-ray vision. You could see through walls and doors and buildings. Can't find your sock? Just turn on that vision. Need to know where your brother hid your favorite toy? Zzzzzooooooooom. Aha, under the bed! The eyes in the back of your mom's head would have NOTHING on you, would they?

Sometimes when friends get into an argument, they act like they have x-ray vision into the other person's mind. “Well, he's just jealous,” one friend says about the other. “I am not, YOU just like to get all the attention!” the other says back. When you get into a disagreement with a friend or family member, do you usually see it as his or her fault?

What if God had x-ray vision? How would HE see these situations when they come? Well, guess what? He DOES! The Bible says, “Everything a man does might seem right to him. But the Lord knows what he is thinking.” (Proverbs 21:2) WHAT? Yes, and He knows not only what you think, but also why you think that way in the first place. The cool thing is that He loves you no matter what, and He wants to help you know yourself better, too.

The next time you begin to get into a tempered situation with someone, whether over a game or a friend or computer time or whatever, try this. As soon as you are aware that you are arguing, stop talking. Walk away and pray if you can. If not, pray in your mind. Ask God to help you calm down and give you x-ray vision into your own heart. He'll show what part, if any, that you have in the conflict. The good news is that, no matter what, He can still help you be a part of the solution. In Romans 12:18 it says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” This may mean you need to help make peace even if it isn't your fault, OR it may mean that you need to forgive your friend for hurting you. However, if the Lord shows you in that prayerful moment that you have some apologizing to do, go and do it...don't wait! The verse at the top shows you how important this is to the Lord. Give others x-ray vision into your heart by showing them Jesus is alive and making peace in you. When you do, it may just help the next conflict stop before it starts in the first place! Peace out!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. When was the last conflict you had with a friend or a family member? Whose fault was it? NOW, ask for God's x-ray vision to help you see whether you had any part in it.....does that change your perspective? Ask God to help you make it right.***
- 2. When the next challenge comes up, how do you think Jesus would want you to deal with it? Name some ways to be a part of the solution instead of the problem.***

Lots of friends means lots of voices---“Y” will guide you regarding your choices...