

# Social Survival

## *How much am I suppose to put up with? Dealing with Dorm Room Conflict*

### **Verses to Consider:**

Matthew 5:9

Mark 9:50

Romans 12:17-19

Romans 14:19

2 Corinthians 13:11

Hebrews 12:14

James 3:17-18

1 Peter 3:8-15

Everyone has conflict. That is just a part of life. For many freshmen, however, problems with a roommate or suitemate are ever more traumatic. Why? Because most freshmen have never lived away from home before. Your room is your private space. It becomes a "safe haven" from the pressure and turmoil of college life. If you have on-going problems with your roommates, it WILL affect your academic performance and overall outlook as well. Every year freshmen fail or drop out of school because of unresolved conflict with their roommates.

Here is a list of situations you may encounter. Some may appear funny and others are depressing. Either way, YOU need to understand when you must compromise and when you must stand firm. Because whether your roommates are total strangers or your best friends, there will be times of misunderstanding and conflict. Remember that 85% of all problems are rooted in miscommunication. Talk to your roommates every day!

### Negotiables

- You're an early morning person and they're a night person
- You like country and they like rap
- You have to study a lot and they never crack a book
- You're a clean freak and they are total slobs
- Your roommate snores or talks in their sleep
- You like the room cold and they like it hot
- You're perky and outgoing and your roommate is moody and introverted

### Non-Negotiables

- Girlfriend/boyfriend sleeping over at night or in bed with your roommate in the day.
- Alcohol in the room
- Stealing your things
- Vandalism of the room or your belongings
- Any kind of violence or intimidation that is unwarranted
- Smoking/drugs done in the room
- "Friends" of your roommate that come over and do any of the above.

One final thought. YOU are paying half of the rent each month for your room. If there are problems with your roommate or with your suitemates that are unacceptable, you must talk with them face-to-face. There is no avoiding this confrontation no matter how difficult it maybe. If you cannot resolve the problem amicably, then the next step is to discuss the problem with your RA. Your RA is there to help you, and they are trained to handle the various problems that arise on your floor.