

Navigating the Tough Issues With God, Your Family, and Community

Decisions, Time mgt, Priorities, Purity “Healthy Conflict & Biblical Resolution”

Colossians 3:12-17

Biggest fight you ever been in? who with? (Spouse/child? Friend? A Bully?) how did it end? How did it make you feel?

Read Colossians 3:13-19

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* [Ⓜ]patience;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must you do* also.¹⁴ In addition to all these things *put on* love, which is [Ⓜ]the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ, to which you were [Ⓜ]indeed called in one body, [Ⓜ]rule in your hearts; and [Ⓜ]be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of [Ⓜ]Christ richly dwell within you, [Ⓜ]with all wisdom teaching and admonishing [Ⓜ]one another with psalms, hymns, *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

What is our posture to be toward CONFLICT? As Believers, as those who have been redeemed (it should look diff.)

- Remember that it is **natural** and unavoidable (human beings are selfish. My selfishness clashes with yours) **flesh**
- Remember that even Christ-followers have conflict at times (the whole Bible details Believers in conflict)
- Remember that God gives every Believer His **Holy Spirit** to help us navigate conflict in healthy ways:

1. Check your own **heart** (Are you possessing the fruits of the Spirit? Are you full of grace? Full of Christ?)

Vs. 12: “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* [Ⓜ]patience; (to the extent that you are in the Flesh, the conflict is doomed)

-Matthew 7:5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the [Ⓜ]speck out of your brother’s eye!”

-Psalm 26:2 “Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; see if there is any wicked way”

-In what ways have you contributed to the problem at hand. Examine your own heart. **Are you their problem?**

2. Be prepared to **forgive** (even if they have not asked for it; even if they are clueless how they have offended)

Vs. 13: bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must you do* also.

-Ken Sande – Christian Peacemaking expert: “Forgiveness is both an event and a process.” = a willful action to keep forgiving the one who has hurt you and satan wants to remind you of that wound often. CHOICE!

*****Forgiveness can be demonstrated practically:**

A. I promise I will give this hurt to the Lord and ask HIM to release me and you from the pain & memory caused

B. I promise I won’t bring this up and use it against you in the future

C. I promise I won’t dwell on this hurt in my own heart. I will keep giving it back to the Lord as often as it appe

D. I promise I won’t talk to other people about this.

E. I promise that I won’t let this stand between us or hinder our personal relationship in the future

3. If **love** is not your motivation (thriving relationship), then check your motivation. All relationships are to be built on Christ’s love (acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, friends, close friends, family, spouse) –

Vs. 14: In addition to all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. *Gregg Mott (Scenery...

otherwise its built on **transaction** (what can you do for me?); or **lust** (what I can get out of you)

= Relational **Sacrifice** (I am here to serve, support, encourage, and help you grow into the likeness of Christ)

- **Our charge as Believers is to pursue and live out sacrificial love toward others as a witness**

How do we show love in conflict?

- Affirm the relationship: “You are so important to me.” “I cannot do this w/o you.” “You are valuable...”
- Listen actively and carefully. Ask relevant questions. Reject the impulse to already have a retort. Don’t interrupt. Don’t assume their motive. Listen for facts. Deal with the present facts. Listen for their feelings.
- Don’t Use extremes in the conversation: “You never do X.” Or “You always do X.”
- Don’t push them into a corner with accusations: **Behavior vs. Character**=“I feel frustrated when/ I hurt...”
- Learn to Respond in grace vs. REACT in anger. (James 1:19). This is about understanding (not win/lose)
- Ask yourself, How can I make them feel SAFE in this moment? How can I be a safe place in this conflict?
- Commit to end every conflict in prayer – Asking for God’s presence, Help, and true restoration.

How? How to accomplish this?? Rom. 12:18 *"If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live at peace w/all men*

A. If we have Jesus Christ dwelling in us through His Spirit, then He has given us PEACE: = JOY b/c

Jesus alone is YOUR **satisfaction**. Jesus alone COMPLETES us – NO one else can do that. =**frustration**

Vs. 15: *Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. Our peace & satisfaction IN Jesus allows us to be gracious & selfless toward others*

-Phil. 2:1-4 *"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility, consider one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

B. If we are in the WORD daily, then He has given us wisdom how to deal with others (lost/ in the flesh)

Vs. 16: *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

-Eph. 5:18-19 = The overflow of a life filled with Christ, filled with His Holy Spirit, filled with the Word of God is a life filled with worship and praise: Let our overflow of love and God's peace and His Word be a teaching moment to those who are running from God. Let the praise of our life point others to the Cross & the gospel.

APPLICATION:

How to pursue Healthy Conflict and Biblical Resolution

1. Confess your own sin first privately. Confess your own Bias. Acknowledge past failures in conflict & why.
2. Remember the adage: "I'm Third!" God first, others second, I'm third. = Remember also, **timing is critical**.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit for Wisdom as you approach the **person** and the **problem**. Ask for Grace to lead well.
4. **Identify** the ROOT Issue.(What is the main Problem? Apparent Symptoms? Personalities? Culture/W.View
*Remember: Sin Nature: Selfishness/Pride (Gen. 3:10) – **our flesh tendency is to sin, hide, and blame others**
5. **Deal** with the ROOT Issue (NOT the symptoms, NOT the personalities, NOT the past hurts, NOT unresolved OR unrelated issues from before). Focus on the one main problem and work toward a godly resolution.
= A. **Spiritual** Issues first, B. Theological, C. Emotional, D. Practical, E. Circumstantial F. Traumatic etc.
6. If you cannot come to a godly resolution, then ask someone you both trust for help: Prayer, Insight, Accountability, Encouragement. **Who is your spiritual Authority:** Elders, Pastor, Staff, Comm. Grp leader, (We all have a spiritual Authority in our lives from which to gain spiritual insight & instruction and to which to remain accountable for our decisions, actions, and attitudes as we grow into spiritual maturity)
7. Remember that godly resolution always promotes forgiveness, grace, restoration, and lasting peace!

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Mt. 5:9

1 Peter 3: 8-9 *"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing."*

Vs. 17: *Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Group Discussion Questions:

1. **What is the worst conflict you can remember? What affect did it have you? Does it still?**
2. **How do you personally handle conflict? What are the unhealthy ways you express your dissatisfaction?**
3. **Do you find it easier or more difficult to have conflict with family vs. friends/co-workers**
4. **How did Jesus model conflict with others? With Pharisees? With Judas? With sinners?**
5. **What is your take away from 1 Peter 3:8-9? What is the context of this passage?**