

#1 Facing the Flames of Conflict
Peacemaker Ministries -Resolving Conflict Series

I. Why Study Conflict Resolution?

1. It is constant.
2. Learn to address conflict in a way that "honors the Lord".

1 Corinthians 10:31 – *Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Timothy 1:15-17 - *...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life... the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

3. We can be instruments of healing.
4. Hurt people hurt people
5. Makes a "difference" in our relationships and testimonies.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

II. "The Sparks" – Triggers That Enflame Us

1. Diversity and Differences
2. Our Preferences
3. Misunderstandings and Miscommunication
4. Loveless actions and Words (Core Wounds)
5. Sinful Attitudes and "Cravings"

James 4:1 *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?*

2 *You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel....*

III. "The Gasoline and Fire"

1. Craving – Motivates me to sin to obtain or to maintain
2. Desires that become demands bring death.
3. Churches are contaminated with festering hurts and conflict.
4. Culture/Media fuels conflict
5. Conflict is not the problem, but what "we do with it".

James 4:1-3 "...You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and so not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

IV. Hope – A Different View

1. We are to be distinct in how we address conflict.
2. Proclaiming and living the Gospel always works!
John 17:1 Page #1081

Matthew 5:1 Page #960

Faith Sheet

Transformation Verse - *...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...* 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

Times with the Lord this week - If you have extra time, look up the cross references with the Transformation Scripture.

#1- Reviewing this Past Sunday

1. Read 1 Cor. 10:31-33. What were the writer's main goals in life?
2. How could these goals shape how we address everyday conflict?
3. How do you see unresolved conflict affecting your home? Church?
4. How are you being used to address conflict in a God-honoring way with others?

2- Preparing for Next Sunday

New Way of Thinking – Peacemaker Ministries #2

1. Read Proverbs 19:11 and Matthew 7:5. - Discuss what seems to be opposing commands concerning addressing conflict.
2. When would you say we are to overlook an offense and when are we to go and address an issue with someone?
3. Pray for someone in festering conflict or unforgiveness.

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Resolving Conflict Series

Opening

1. Have you ever been equipped in conflict resolution? If not, why not and if so, what did you learn?
2. Start Session #1 and when you watch the Video – Discuss what did you get from it?

Why Study Conflict Resolution?

1. It is all around us all the time - little and big conflicts.
2. There is hope to address conflict Biblically in a way that honors the Lord.

Two Observations

1. Someone here is in a conflict that involves deep hurt.
2. The way we “address” conflict can make an “enormous difference” in our lives.

The Anatomy of Conflict

1. “The Spark” – Triggers that incite us
 - A. God given Diversity/Differences
 - i. “Can eye say to the hand” you are not needed, stay away from me etc.
 - ii. “Preferences” and “personality differences” can become huge triggers for conflict
 - iii. Misunderstandings/Miscommunication can provoke our anger
 - iv. Sinful Attitudes - desires and actions that spill out from “our heart”.

"The Gasoline"

1. The Problem is not conflict, but how we respond and what we do with it.

James 4:1-3 "What is the source of your quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and so not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

2. "Cravings" (desires) enflame and cause all conflicts.

A. "Craving" – A desire that prompts me "to sin to Obtain or sin to Maintain"

B. The next step is that "Desires become Demands"

3. Culture/Media fuels conflict

A. "You deserve it" is a damning message.

B. "Watch out for # 1" and He/She is not pulling his end of the bargain

4. What can be an "out of control craving" for you? - (Respect, Comfort, Attention, Being in Charge, Other?)

"The Fire"

1. Families, churches and work are "contaminated" with unresolved hurts and conflict.
2. Sometimes these conflicts are big "brush fires" and sometimes they are ongoing "smoldering conflicts" that are "always" there and "draining" relationships.

Hope – A Radically Different View of Relationships and Conflicts

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

1. We are to be “distinct” as believers in how we handle conflict

John 17:9-10, 21, 23 *“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.” “... that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.” “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”*

Matthew 22:37-40 *“And He said to him, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*

VIII. What is Not the Answer?

1. “Try hard”
2. “Just get along”
3. “Keep working at it”

Ephesians 4:32 *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

2. “Conflict is an opportunity to show “God’s radical love and strength” - Not our own desires, efforts or fleshly techniques.
3. **Video** – What did you see, hear, and feel? - “Preferring” the other person and lying down our “lusts (cravings) and idols” will cause us to continuously learn to address conflict in a way that honors God and ministers to others.

IX. Review the session

1. What “hit home” with you and what will you apply to your own life?
2. How did your family of origin deal with conflict and how has that affected you?
3. Read Philippians 2:1-4 - What “truths” do you see that address the proper understanding of ourselves and the proper handling of conflict?