

#3 Go to Higher Ground (Glorify God) – Peacemaker Ministries

Resolving Conflict Series

I. Recap

Conflict is all around us and it wears us down.

To avoid or attack in conflict will not honor God.

Speaking God's "truth in love" is critically needed today.

Ephesians 4:15 - *...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.*

Tim Keller - *"Truth without love is imperious self-righteousness. Love without truth is cowardly self-indulgence."*

II. Glorify God – Go to "Higher Ground"

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

2 Corinthians 5:15 *...He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

1. When it really matters, we tend to aim for what we really believe.
2. Conflict brings out what we don't realize about ourselves.
3. If pleasing God is not our ultimate desire, then we will fail to be instruments of healing.

III. Where is our Focus?

1. Often we have a "horizontal" and not a vertical focus.

Proverbs 29:25-26 - *The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.*

Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the LORD.

2. There is a time in a conflict when we go too far, say the wrong word, spill out emotional attacks or flee – "the tipping point"

Proverbs 18:21 - *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 12:18 - *Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

Proverbs 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

3. Be prayerful and wise in escalating moments:

- Do I want to be comfortable, win or honor God?
- Is this a matter of my desire or God's truth?

IV. The Hope of the "Gospel" and God's Glory

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Page #1152

Embraced

Enables

Encouragement

Effects (Identity and Purpose)

Ephesians 4:1 Page #1171

Faith Sheet

Transformation Verse - ... *if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat...*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (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

Go To A Higher Ground

Peacemaker Ministries Resolving Conflict Series

1. Review the lesson with someone in order to apply it.
2. Read Ezekiel 10:4. "Glory" literally means to be heavy or weighty. God's glory means He is weighty above all others when we make decisions. In other words, He is preeminent in our lives, the most loved, the most honored and means more to us than anyone or anything.
3. How might God being the most glorious One to you change how you treat others? How you speak the truth in love no matter the results? How you address people who do not like you or agree with you? Pray as God leads.

2- Preparing for Next Sunday

Get Real About Yourself (Get the log out of your own eye)

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1. Read Matthew 7:1-6 and study Jesus' words addressing conflict.
2. Ask someone if it is easy for you to admit your contribution to a conflict.
3. Pray for one another to grow during this series.

#3 Go to Higher Ground (Glorify God) – Peacemaker Ministries
Resolving Conflict Series

I. Recap

1. Conflict is all around us and it wears us down.
2. Cannot “escape” conflict.
3. To “attack” others during/after conflict is not Christ-like.

II. Glorify God – Go to Higher Ground

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
2. When it really matters we tend to aim for what we really believe.

III. Video - What did you see, feel, think?

1. The battle is often that we don't live out what say we truly believe.

IV. Where is our Focus?

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 - *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
2. Often we have a “horizontal” and not “vertical” focus.
3. There is a “tipping point” in conflict where we go too far, say the wrong word, spill out emotional attacks, etc.

In escalating moments:

- a. “How can I win or what would please and honor God?”
(Share a Testimony – What would please and honor God)
- b. Is this issue worth our relationship? Do we need to let this issue stand between us?
- c. Is this a matter of God's truth or my preference?

V. The Hope and Impact of the Gospel

1. There are often multiple “moments” in conflict for healing or disaster.

2. Throwing hand grenades of past issues, etc. can blow up the relationship and hurt the Gospel of Christ.
3. The Gospel means "Good News" – although we were His enemies, He reached out to us, died for us, adopted us as His sons, forgave our sins, gave us a fresh start, placed His Spirit within us and made us His own.

Colossians 1:21-22 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach...

4. What does the "Gospel" have to do with everyday life?

Colossians 3:12-14 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

2 Corinthians 5:15 He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:18 (God) reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

VI. How the Gospel affects "Difficult" Relationships

1. Matthew 18:21-35
2. King settling accounts (10,000 talents)
3. 900 talents was a year's tax levy for the region.
4. 100 Denarii = about \$17.00
5. Our offenses are trivial compared to our offenses toward God.
6. Luke 7:36-50
7. Gratitude is flowing, she has been forgiven much and she loves much. Experiencing His forgiveness daily lends to daily overflow of forgiveness toward others.

8. "Relationships get easier in life as the Gospel gets bigger inside us."
9. Remember that God Transforms and Enables.
10. Ezekiel 36:25-27 - Only God can do the following: *25 Then **I** will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I** will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 "Moreover, **I** will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and **I** will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "**I** will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.*