

Deepening Through Conflict

“HEAVEN ON EARTH”, part 4 of 5 // Saturday, September 28, and Sunday, September 29, 2019

Big Idea: Conflict can actually be used by God to deepen a relationship if it is managed wisely.

Text: Selected Scriptures

CRITICISM

DEFENSIVENESS

CONTEMPT

STONEWALLING

I. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS.

Ephesians 4:22-24 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

II. WHEN IT IS WISE AND HEALTHY TO AVOID CONFLICT, DO SO.

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

Proverbs 19:11 - A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 20:3 - It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

III. WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CONFRONT PROBLEMS, DO SO.

Matthew 5:23-24 - Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:15 - If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

IV. DEAL WITH CONFLICT IN A BIBLICAL MANNER.

A. Speak truthfully, but in a kind way.

Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Proverbs 26:28 - A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

B. Don't let your anger lead you to sin.

Ephesians 4:26-27 - "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

C. Speak only what will build up and benefit.

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Proverbs 15:28 - The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

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

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

D. Be gracious and forgiving.

Ephesians 4:31-32 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.