

Winning Battles But Losing The War!

Series: "Home Sweet Home!"

October 13, 2019

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Ways that we deal with conflict:

- We run away from it.
- We run toward it.
- We resolve it.

Eph 4:1-3 (NIV) ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

How to resolve conflict:

1. Take the INITIATIVE.

vs ¹ "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

Matt 5:9 (NIV) ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matt 5:23-24 (ESV) ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Gen 3:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

1 Jn 4:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear....

2 Tim 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2. Acknowledge YOUR PART in the conflict.

vs ² "Be completely humble..."

Pr 13:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Where there is strife, there is pride...

Phil 2:3-4 (NIV) ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

WE ALL HAVE "BLIND" SPOTS.

Matt 7:3-4 (ESV) ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

James 4:1 (ESV) ¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

(MSG) ¹ Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves.

Pr 28:13 (NIV) ¹³ He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

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3. Listen to their VIEWPOINT.

² ...gentle; ...

Jam 1:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

Phil 2:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Sympathy meets two basic human needs.

1. The need to be understood.
2. The need to have our feelings validated.

How do I become sympathetic?

Jam 1:19 (NIV) "...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

Pr 19:11 (NIV) "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense."

4. Lovingly control your **ANGER**.

vs² ...be patient, bearing with one another in love.

"patient" means LONG WRATH and SLOW ANGER.

The way you think determines how you feel.

The way you feel determines how you act.

Rom 12:2 (NIV)² ...be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

Patience is a choice

Col 3:12 (ESV)¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

5. Be **MATURE** by being a **PEACE MAKER**.

vs³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Deal with issues and don't attack person and speak truth tactfully!

Eph 4:15 (NIV)¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Pr 12:18 (NIV)¹⁸ Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

To be mature is to be **MERCIFUL**

Definition of mercy: Mercy is giving more kindness than justice demands.

1 Pet 3:9 (NIV)⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.