

“Reconciling with One Another”
July 17, 2016

Ephesians 2:13-18

CORE: JESUS RESTORES BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS.

- Where there are OFFENSES—walls can be built (Proverbs 18:19)
- JESUS came to remove walls of division (Ephesians 2:14); *“He melted down every dividing partition” (The Mirror Bible)*
- HE THEN TRANSFORMS THE RELATIONSHIPS-
 - Where we ATTACKED—we become ATTACHED to one another
 - Where we FOUGHT WITH—we learn to FIGHT FOR one another
 - RECONCILIATION not only resolves CONFLICT—it brings us to a NEW LEVEL OF CONNECTION

1. MOST CONFLICTS are ROOTED IN FEAR

James 4:1-2- “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something—but don’t get it.”

- The primary cause of conflict is FEAR—being afraid that you won’t get what you want. (*i.e., Agree with me; do it my way; respect me; etc.*)
- Conflict is perpetuated by the following unhealthy WAY of RESPONDING (*NOTE: There is a “way” that “seems right”—but in the end it is relationally destructive. Proverbs 14:12*):
 - I WANT→
 - I DEMAND→
 - I JUDGE YOU (“You always/you never”)→
 - I PUNISH YOU
 - FIGHT (*verbal combat; intimidation; threats*)
 - FLIGHT (*withdraw; indirect; “pretend” everything’s alright*)
 - FREEZE (*love grows cold; shut down emotionally; shut out*)

2. RECONCILIATION IS “GOD’S WAY” OF HANDLING CONFLICT

“I CARE”—refuse indifference (*i.e., “Whatever...”*)

- *“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” (Philippians 2:4 NLT)*
- Reconciliation begins by shifting from “They hurt me”→ “What do they need?” and “How can I help to meet that need?”
- The foundational issue in most conflicts is the FEAR that you don’t CARE about the other person needs.
- When we show we CARE—TRUST can begin to be restored.
- TRUST is a MUST for reconciliation to happen.

“I SHARE”—refuse to withdraw & withhold my heart

- *“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45)*
- How can you know my heart if I don’t share it with you?
- I have a responsibility to let you know my thoughts/feelings.
- *Being willing to SHARE (and trust someone to CARE) involves VULNERABILITY.*

“I BEAR WITH”—refuse to quit

- *“Bear with one another and forgive one another if you have a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)*
- Lit.- “to be made able to stand supportively & patiently with someone—in an understanding way”
- NOTE: This is one of the most powerful weapons to “diffuse the division bomb”

“I STAND IN PRAYER”—refuse to say “impossible”

- *“Avoid foolish and stupid arguments, because they only produce endless conflicts” (2 Timothy 2:23)*
- *“Foolish”—a disregard for consequences*
- *“You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.” (James 4:2).*
- ONLY Jesus is “all in all” (Colossians 1:17)—we can’t be!

CONCLUSION-

Fighting dis-ease can make your body stronger. Resisting a destructive end to conflicts makes His spiritual Body stronger!

Relationships with those He’s set us in the Body with “just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:18)—are worth fighting for!