

Biblical Conflict Resolution

Walking Your Path

- Prayer and Spending Time in the Word
- Attend on Sundays
- Take time to be in a small group
- Have a personal ministry

Conflict definitions

- a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one
- a condition in which a person experiences a clash of opposing wishes or needs
- a difference in opinion, purpose or interest that frustrates someone's goals or desires
 - Conflict provides opportunities for growth- we tend to see conflict as an inconvenience, annoyance, uncomfortable and unwanted

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We are called to be Peacemakers

- Peace is part of God's character
 - Rom 15:33 – "May the God of peace be with you all"
 - 2 Cor 13:11 – "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace be with you."
- Peace is one of the great blessings that God gives to those who follow him
 - Num 6:24-26 – "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."
- God repeatedly commands his people to seek and pursue peace
 - Psalm 34:14 – "Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it"
 - Rom 14:19 – "So let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbrining"

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We are called to be Peacemakers

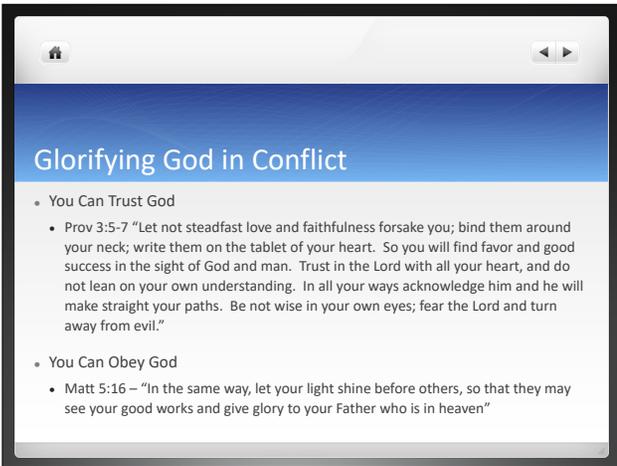
- God described his covenant with his people in terms of peace
 - Num 25:12 – "Therefore say, Behold I give to him my covenant of peace"
 - Isaiah 54:10 – "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you"
- God taught his people to use the word peace as a standard form of greeting
 - Judges 6:23 – "But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die"
- Jesus is referred to as the Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6.
 - Jesus was constantly preaching and giving peace. John 14:27 – "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." He sacrificed His life so that we could obtain eternal peace.

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Basic Principles of Resolving Conflict Biblically (5 G's)

- **Gospel** – This is the foundational G. Your heart should be changed by the Gospel.
- **Glorify God**
 - 1 Cor 10:31 – "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever, you do, do all to the glory of God."







Basic Principles of Resolving Conflict
Biblically (5 G's)

- Get the log out of your eye
 - Matt 7:3-5 – Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brothers eye."

Get the log out of your own eye

- Restoration process with God involves 4 activities
 - Repentance
 - Self Examination
 - Confession (7 A's)
 - Address everyone involved
 - Avoid If, But and Maybe
 - Admit specifically
 - Acknowledge the hurt
 - Accept the consequences
 - Alter your behavior
 - Ask for forgiveness
 - Personal change

Basic Principles of Resolving Conflict
Biblically (5 G's)

- Gently Restore
 - Galatians 6:1 – "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. "
 - Restoring is more than confronting!
 - It may include confessing, teaching, instructing, reasoning with, showing, encouraging, correcting, warning, admonishing, or rebuking

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Gently Restore

- Matt 18:15-20 – “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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Gently Restore

- Examples when a situation rises to the level of being “Face to Face”
 - Is it dishonoring to God?
 - Is it damaging your relationship?
 - Is it hurting others?
 - Is it hurting the offender?
- 2 Tim 2:24-26 “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

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Basic Principles of Resolving Conflict Biblically (5 G's)

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

Go and be reconciled

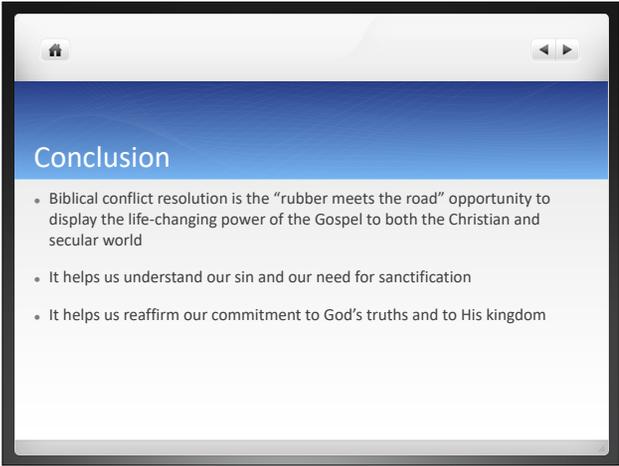
- What is forgiveness NOT?
 - It is not a FEELING
 - We must call on God to change our hearts
 - It is not FORGETTING
 - Forgetting is passive. Forgiving is active and involves a conscious choice.
 - It is not EXCUSING
 - Forgiveness deals honestly with sin. It does not excuse it.

Go and be reconciled

- Luke 17:3-4
 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent', you must forgive him.
- Forgiveness may need to be a two step process
 - Have an attitude of forgiveness
 - Granting forgiveness

Go and be reconciled

- How to rightly forgive
- THOUGHT
 - Deliberately pray for that person. Think about their good qualities or think of a good memory
- WORD
 - Make it a point to speak well of that person. Express appreciation for something he or she has done
- DEED
 - Loving actions towards that person. That communicates the reality of your forgiveness and your commitment to reconciliation



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Conclusion

- Biblical conflict resolution is the “rubber meets the road” opportunity to display the life-changing power of the Gospel to both the Christian and secular world
- It helps us understand our sin and our need for sanctification
- It helps us reaffirm our commitment to God’s truths and to His kingdom
