

3.22.09

RELATIONSHIPS

week 4

birds will be birds

Instruction on handling conflict

Conflict and relationships go together.

Larry Crabb wrote, "The difference between spiritual and unspiritual community is not whether conflict exists, but is rather in our attitude toward it and our approach to handling it. When conflict is seen as an opportunity to draw more fully on spiritual resources, we have the makings of spiritual community."



In other words, it is how we handle conflict that determines the level of our spiritual maturity!

We must learn to handle conflict correctly!

Matthew 18:15-20 ¹⁵"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. ¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷If 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. ¹⁸Truly, 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. ¹⁹Again 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. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

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

come and offer your gift.”

1. Learn the difference between opinions and sin.

...Never be wise in your own sight! Romans 12:16

2. Get the log out of your eye.

Matthew 7:3-5 ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or 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? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

"Coping with difficult people is always a problem. Especially if the difficult person happens to be yourself." -John Maxwell-

3. Go to that person.

...between you and him alone...(Matthew 18:15)

In humility, gently, in love, seeking to restore.....but you go.

Too often we go to anyone and everyone except the person.

Do you know people like this? They are Matthew 13 birds!

Matthew 13: Parable of the sower—birds snatch it up; Parable of the mustard seed--birds perch in the branches...what do birds do??? They poop on you!

Great questions to help one another to be true Christians in handling conflict:

- A. Have you gone to this person?
- B. Why are you telling me this?
- C. How did you get this information? (A birdie told me!)

4. Go to one who has authority and trust God.

If you can't get through on an issue, if you are continually bothered, go to one who has authority and then leave it with them and with God.

How to help others: Remember to ask the three questions!

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 5:18 "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"