

Love & Hate Part 8: "Resolving Conflict" (7-2-2017)

Series Review

1) **Love & Hate defined:** (Story of the Loving Father) (What & How does God hate)

2) **Correcting Love:** Correction is not Rejection, its Love. So Confess, Repent, and seek Forgiveness

3) **Loving God & people:** (Rich Young Ruler & The Good Samaritan)

Last week: Maintaining Relational Unity

Key Verse: (Ephesians 4:3) Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Today: Relational Unity continued . . . Resolving Relational Conflict (**Introduction: Jake's Basketball Argument**)

1) Resolving a Conflict

Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)

(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. (16) 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. (17) 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.

Note: First of all note the context, and therefore the heart behind this . . .

- Matthew 18:10-14 (The Lost Sheep that is sought, restored, and celebrated)

Now observe the progression in resolving conflict . . .

- Go to your brother alone
- Take 1-2 others along, maybe they can see things more clearly
- Take it to the church (this is about appealing to wise leadership)
- Then this person is as an outsider to you

a) How to Restore

Galatians 6:1-3, 9 (ESV)

(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. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (3) For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself . . . (9) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Note: Restore: in Gentleness, Watch yourself, Bear the Burden, Go on equal footing, not looking down. And guess what, this takes work, but don't get weary of it, when the relationship is restored, its worth it!

b) Both parties holds the responsibility to resolve the conflict

Matthew 5:21-24 (ESV)

(21) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' (22) But I say to you that everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever **insults** his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, '**You fool!**' will be liable to the hell of fire. (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.

Note: Jesus takes our relationships very seriously – anger, insults, and pride are viewed as destructive as murder. And they are, they kill relationships! Jesus calls the person who is under accusation to go resolve it. It's not just the hurt person's move, if you are aware you have done something wrong, or even if you haven't done something wrong, but someone has something against you, go to them!

2) Unresolved Conflict

Now what if you can't resolve this? What are the circumstances that require more action?

Let's look at 3 cases:

1) **Heresy** is next week (relates to Doctrinal Issues)

2) **Unchecked sin**

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (ESV)

(9) I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— (10) not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. (11) But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (12) For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? (13) God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

Note: There is a time to remove someone from fellowship . . . it is an extreme case! And take special note, this has nothing to do with the lost . . . Family of God is called to a higher standard – we know better!

2 Corinthians 2:5-8 (ESV)

(5) Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. (6) For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, (7) so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. (8) So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

Note: Most experts believe this is Paul speaking of the same man who was kicked out in his 1st letter. They did it & it worked. Apparently the guy experienced genuinely godly sorrow . . . So they reaffirmed their love!

James 5:19-20 (ESV)

(19) My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, (20) let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Note: When we are willing to do the hard thing, and do it in love, with a heart to restore. We can experience the miraculous!!

3) Other Party Refuses to Reconcile**Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)**

(3) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Note: Don't write them off from your own pride, Have humility and consider them & their position.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 (ESV)

(23) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Note: First of all, is this conflict even worth it? Have you considered that maybe you have over-reacted? If you are walking this out with patience & gentleness, then you are creating a scenario where they come to their senses!!

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Note: Do your part to keep the peace, and then be at peace!!!

Conclusion: This takes a lot of Patience & Forgiveness, but remember . . .

Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)

(21) Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (22) Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Note: Jesus – go to great lengths to forgive . . . 77 times or 7 times 70 – The point is don't keep count!

- Story of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35) . . .
- Servant is forgiven a large fortune, but now he won't forgive what is owed him!
- 10,000 talents vs. 100 denarii (a day's wage) A talent is 6,000 denarii. Imagine being owed \$5,000 but owing multi-millions. This is what happened at the cross . . .

Jesus forgives his killers and mockers - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Resolving Conflict: Our issue isn't primarily people – they will always be a problem.

Our issue is remembering the Gospel . . .

As believers we should be more aware of our sin & need for God, and therefore have more Grace for others!