

Wednesday Night
 RECHARGE

Difficult People & Situations

(HANDLING CONFLICTS & SETTLING DIFFERENCES)

*⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. – **Matthew 5:43 – 48 (NKJV)***

- No doubt you will experience some difficult and draining moments and occasions as you relate and interact with or lead others.
- Pain and problems in life are inevitable, but our response to pain or problems is a _____. (**Psalm 34:19**)
- We learn from our Lord four (4) key "Love Responses" when we experience the reality of relational pain, problems or persecution:
- **Love's (4) Responses:**
 - #1: _____ your enemies.
 - #2: _____ those who curse you. (**Curse** = speak evil of; say negative or evil things about)
 - #3: Do _____ to those who hate you. (**Hate** = detest; to love less; to persecute; to pursue with hatred)
 - #4: _____ for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (**Persecute** = to pursue in a hostile manner; to make to run or flee; to press with / by ostracizing and harshly criticizing; treating someone hatefully and harmfully)
- Why should we respond this way? Because we are _____ children of a Loving Father!
- Often, the most common sources of conflict and difficulty with people are as follow:
 - Personality and relationship clashes.
 - Unspoken and unmet expectations
 - Insecurity and identity issues.
 - Unresolved conflict from past wounds and hurts.
 - Independent attitudes and inflexible perspectives.
- **Some other KEY POINTS:**
 - Hurting people naturally _____ people
 - As Christian Believers, we must never place _____ health in the hands of someone else.
 - It is possible for a person to sabotage himself/herself. He/She might win an argument, but ultimately he/she _____ the relationship and more than he/she gains.
 - We must practice the Law of Connection: seek to resolve the conflict and restore the relationship by touching their _____ before you ask for a _____.
- **Remember...**
 - Conflict is _____. (It is going to happen because we are different); Conflict is _____. (It is neither destructive nor constructive in itself); Conflict is _____. (It is universal; you're not alone in your humanity).
- **Five (5) Options When Faced with Conflict:** (1) I'll get **THEM!** (retaliation); (2) I'll get **OUT!** (escape and avoidance); (3) I'll give **IN!** (surrender); (4) I'll go **HALF!** (compromise); (5) I'll **DEAL** with it! (address the issue)
- **Five Stage: How Paul Faced Conflict (Read Philemon 4 – 22)** – (1) COMPLIMENT STAGE (vs 4 – 7); (2) COMPROMISE STAGE (vs 8 – 13); (3) CHOICE STAGE (vs 14); (4) CHALLENGE STAGE (vs 15 – 20); (5) CONFIDENCE STAGE (vs 21 – 22)

HOW TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

- **Conflict** = a strong disagreement between people. A difference that prevents agreement.
 - It often results in a big argument.
 - Speak when you're angry and you will give the biggest mistake of a speech that you ever gave.
- *Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to handle it by a peaceable means.* - Former President Ronald Reagan
- Most people don't want to change until the problem is more painful to change. *"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."* - [Luke 17:3-4 KJV](#)
- **Trespass** = violate a rule; commit an offense; to cross the line of acceptable behavior
- **Rebuke** = speak frankly; honestly and politely (it is done privately and confidentially)
- This is all done with the goal of restoration in mind. **It's all about the restoring the relationship. We are the ones seeking to bring restoration, not dividing and not offense.**
- Forgive mean to release someone from a debt. It is an idea that you're giving somebody something they don't deserve. *"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."* - [Matthew 18:15-17 KJV](#)
- *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."* - [Galatians 6:1-2 KJV](#)
- Whenever you lower the standard the people will always go one step further.
- *"Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven."* - [Matthew 18:18 AMPC](#)
- [Read Matthew 18:1 - 4 \(Amplified\); Read Matthew 18:21 - 27; 28 - 35](#) (look at this in context)
- We are to forgive for restoration! We deal with it so that it can be restoration. Too often we don't do things because we were hurt. **Restore** = to set him right; restore; reinstate without any sense of superiority. We are to imitate Jesus in heaven and imitate Jesus in freely forgiving others. *"And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you."* - [Ephesians 4:32 AMPC](#)
- *"THEREFORE BE imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to that it became] a sweet fragrance. [Ezek. 20:41.]"* - [Ephesians 5:1-2 AMPC](#)
- **What will give you the ability to forgive = LOVE!**
- *"Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive]."* - [Colossians 3:12-13 AMPC](#) *"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."* - [Colossians 3:13 NLT](#)

SETTLING DIFFERENCES

- *"If another believer sins against you, go privately and out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."* - [Matthew 18:15-17 NLT](#)
- Jesus tells us that the most important thing is not who is right or wrong in a dispute, but that peace is kept between brothers and sisters in the family of God. In other words, winning your brother or sister is more important than winning an argument.
- The "one or two others" mentioned are to be impartial. As impartial observers and hearers, they can make an objective and prayerful decision. Again, the desired result is the gaining of the brother or sister. **Settling strife is the honorable conclusion God is looking for.** *When issues are settled behind closed doors, **the first benefit** is to the local body of believers. Because little or nothing is known by others, gossip and discord cannot begin. **The next benefit** is toward unbelievers. Because strife is not seen, the issue of the gospel can be kept clearly before them, even by those believers who at one time had contention between themselves. The Holy Spirit is involved in the private settling of strife and in the public declaration of the gospel.*
- When strife and contention become manifested before the world, the issue of the gospel is lost behind the smokescreen of accusations. We are to go into all the world to preach the gospel, but into the closet to settle our differences.