

What Jesus Demands from the World

Sermon Notes & Community Group Discussion

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Conflict is Opportunity!

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

I. What is Conflict?

- A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.

II. The Four G's: A God centered response to conflict. (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

- Glorify God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - How can I please and honor God in this situation?
- Get the log out of your eye. (Matthew 7:5)
 - How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?
- Gently Restore. (Galatians 6:1)
 - How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?
- Go and be reconciled. (Matthew 5:24)
 - How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God & encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?

III. The Foundational G: The Gospel of Jesus Christ!

- Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

IV. How do we respond to conflict?

- Escape Responses: Peace – faking.
- Attack Responses: Peace – breaking.
- Peacemaking Responses: Peacemaking.

MEDITATION / APPLICATION

Please Note: If you are interested in getting involved in a Crossroads Community Group, please visit www.crossroadschurchaustin.com and choose Get Connected.

Key Principal: Conflict is an Opportunity.

1. Individually or in pairs, silently read one or two of the following passages and then explain to the group or to your partner what Slippery Slope responses people used, and whether those responses were wise or foolish.
 - a. Abram, Sarai, and Hagar (Gen. 16:1-6)
 - b. Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Gen. 39:1-18)
 - c. Joseph and his brothers (Gen. 37:17-28; 45:1-7; 50:15-21)
 - d. King Saul and David (1 Samuel 18:1-11; 19:9-12)
 - e. Daniel (Dan. 1:1-16)
 - f. The apostles (Acts 6:1-7)
 - g. Saul (Paul) and Barnabas (Acts 9:20-28)
 - h. Paul (1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; see Matthew 18:15-20)
2. What Slippery Slope responses did God model while resolving mankind's conflict with him? Which of the Four G's did he model?
3. What responses of the Slippery Slope come most naturally to you? Why? How do your responses usually effect the people around you?
4. Which of the Four G's do you do most naturally? Least Naturally? How would your response to conflict change if you really saw conflict as an opportunity to glorify God, grow to be like Christ, serve others, and demonstrate the reconciling power of the Gospel?
5. Pray for one another.

My Next Step:

When I face conflict this week, I will note how I am tempted to be a peace-breaker, and I'll ask God to help me be a peacemaker by living out the Four G's.

