

Biblical Peacemaking and Reconciliation

Shawn Milton, Gateway Fellowship, August 2, 2015

- How does your faith come to bear in times of conflict?
- Conflict is disagreement. It escalates.
- When you push the person away in order to win, no good comes of the conflict.
- How can I glorify God in a conflict?
- We see confrontation as a bad thing, wrongly.

Four Goals during Conflict

1. Glorify God
2. Get the log out of our eye
3. Gently restore
4. Go and be reconciled

1. Glorify God

- Trust God and not yourself
- Obey God
- Imitate God's mercy and love
- Direct people to God

2. Get the log out of your eye

- the knowledge of good and evil is expressed in our expertise at telling others where they've gone wrong
- we must resolve the conflict by first seeing where WE have gone wrong first
- we become judges instead of vessels of mercy
- we ALL fall out of line and need to be restored gently

3. Gently Restore

- help them take responsibility for their part in the conflict
- it's not about an apology, it's about helping them take responsibility for their actions and their impact
- if they do it to you, they likely do it to others. They need to see it.
- The Christian is a sinner's bible. They read your life.
- help them see their blind spot

4. Go and be reconciled

-we believe it's okay to hold grudges and still worship, but Jesus said that's not the kingdom way

-ahead of worship, we seek reconciliation

-work it out

-forgiveness is a choice

-"I don't feel like it" that's where you're wrong. Christianity isn't about feelings. It's about faith.

-speak forgiveness and then go work on the layers of hurt

-when we shield ourselves from others through unforgiveness it is because of our unresolved unhealed hurts

-forgiveness is about you getting free of the hurt from what was done wrong

-forgiveness is not an automatic memory loss

-you will have to choose not to bear a record of wrongs, in other words, you will have to choose love

- "I choose not to use this against you in the future"

-when someone says they forgive me and then they keep bringing it up...they're still carrying the grudge

-if they keep doing it over and over they need help to change, drastic perhaps

-when we forgive, we don't gossip about it

-keep things between you and the person (except for trusted godly counsel during the conflict with a view to responding rightly)