

“DEALING WITH CONFLICT”
Great Relationships Don’t Just Happen, Part 3
February 27th, 2011

Every relationship has conflict. If you don’t know how to deal with it, it can kill your relationship

Mark 3:25 (LB) “A home filled with strife and division destroys itself.”

What Causes Conflict?

James 4:1 (NCV) “Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.”

How we deal with conflict: either...

*My Way

*No Way

*Your Way

*Half Way

*Our Way

How To Constructively Deal With Conflict

1. Call on God for help

Before you go to the other person, first discuss it with God

James 4:2 (NIV) “You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.”

Conflict often occurs when we look to other people to meet needs that God Himself wants to meet

There is no person in the world who can meet all your needs

When you expect your mate to meet all your needs, you are asking him/her to be God

Consistent anger is a warning light that I may be expecting others to meet needs that God wants to meet

2. Confess my part of the problem

Ask, “How much is my fault?”

Matthew 7:3,5 (GN) “Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?... First, take the log out of your own eye, then you’ll be able to see clearly.”

Everyone has “blind” spots in their life

The theological term when the problem is “all their fault” is baloney

3. Convene a peace conference

The only way to deal with conflict is face it

Matthew 5:23,24 (GN) “[If you] remember someone has something against you, leave your gift at the altar, go at once and make peace... then come back and offer your gift to God.”

Matthew 18:15 (NIV) “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”

Failure to deal with conflict doesn’t cause it to go away, it becomes worse

Practical steps on how to do a peace conference

1. Choose the right time
2. Choose the right place
3. Pray before meeting
4. Come with a positive attitude that God will work in your relationship

4. Cut out abusive language

We must learn how to attack the problem without attacking each other
Ephesians 4:29 (GN) "Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed..."

You need to establish some ground rules for fighting fair
Colossians 3:8 (Ph) "You must put away all these things: ...furious rage, malice, insults, and shouted abuse! And don't deceive each other with lies anymore."

Don't push your spouse's hot button(s)

5. Consider my mate's perspective

The secret to resolving conflict is to understand where the other person is coming from

You gain the other person's perspective by listening
Romans 15:2 (LB) "We must bear the 'burden' of being considerate of the doubts & fears of others..."
Philippians 2:4 (GN) "Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."

6. Concentrate on reconciliation, not resolution

"Reconciliation" means to re-establish the relationship

"Resolution" means to resolve all the issues

Your mate and you are not going to agree on every issue

It is wise to compromise
James 3:17 (LB) "The wisdom that comes from heaven... is peace loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others..."

Closing Thoughts...

If you need professional help, get it

Realize you must also have help from God

The first step is to commit yourself to God
Colossians 3:15 (LB) "Let the peace of heart that comes from Christ always be present in your hearts & lives..."

My Next Step Today Is...

- There is a conflict in my life I will deal with this week using the steps covered today
- Of the 6 areas the one I am asking God to help me put in practice in my life is step # _____
- I plan to attend "Questions About Christianity" luncheon on Sun, March 6th at noon