

# SIX PRINCIPLES ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS FOR EVERY DISCIPLE

## Kingdom Training Class: Level 4

*Eph 5:2 ... walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

*Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Psalm 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

*Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

### Principle 4: THE CHALLENGE: Spiritual Conflict Resolution

Conflicts happen in all relationships. Godly standards to resolve conflict are essential.

#### **Luke 6:27-36**

-This is God's standard of conflict resolution; the standard He uses in His relationship with us!

#### **Galatians 5:25-26**

- We are not naturally like God. We have to work on it.
- Conflict is an opportunity to glorify God (**1 Corth 10:31-33**)
- It is also an opportunity to grow closer to each other.

#### **I. Change Your Focus**

##### a. Focus on Glorifying God

###### **James 4:1-3**

- Why do you want what you are fighting for?
- Do not moralize your own desires.

###### **Psalm 37:1-6**

- Delight in the Lord. Only He can meet all your needs.

##### b. Focus on Heaven

###### **Colossians 3:1-4**

- Our daily times with God should help us. Keeps your focus on heaven and not here on earth.
- We can't just walk away: Once there has been a disagreement, we need to agree with the other person about a time and place to get back together and talk about the differences.

*WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY WE NEED TO DO WHEN WE ARE AWAY FROM THAT PERSON?*

## II. Get the log out of your own eye

### Matthew 7:3-5

- Instead of attacking others on their wrongs, we need to take responsibility for our own contribution to the conflict.
- If you were wronged: How did you respond? Was it godly?

### 1 John 1:8-9

- Confess your sins to God first
- Think: What did I do wrong?
- **Proverbs 15:1** Gentle response?
- **Matthew 7:12** How would I like to be treated when I sin?
- **Philippians 2:3-4** In our conflict, did I think of his interests? Did I think of her better than myself?
- **Proverbs 19:11** Overlook an offense
- **Romans 12:18** As far as it depends on you! You have to first take care of **your** boundary.
- **Mathew 18:15** The goal is to win him/her over. Not to win the fight.

## III. Go and be reconciled

- Go Quickly! Ideally should meet each other on the way. **Matt 5:23-25a**
- Apologize for your sin. **Proverbs 28:13 / James 5:16**
  - After you have prayed and seen your fault you need to go back and confess your sin.
- Wait to hear a response.
  - Allow the person to express their hurt thoroughly
- Say SORRY! Ask for forgiveness.
- After being forgiven for your sin, ask (if you have the need) if you can talk about how the other person hurt you.
  - It helps to ask him or her some questions to draw them out. Ex: Did I do something to cause you to react like that?
- Say I FORGIVE YOU!  
**Ephesians 4:1-3, 32; Matt 6:12; Mark 11:25; Matt 5:23-24**
  - This brings closure.
  - God did this for us at baptism.
  - He wants us to have a closure with each other and not leave each other in the doghouse!
- Disciples are competent to help in ways that those who are not cannot.  
**1 Corth 6:1-4**  
Get help from those in the church when you need it.

## IV. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

- Remind each other to stick with this conflict resolution process each time.
- **Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peace makers.