

Introduction – Conflict: Deal with it ... heal from it

- *"In as far as possible, live at peace with one another," Romans 12:8*
- *"If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day. Don't give the devil a chance." Ephesians 4:26-27*

Conflict: Deal with it ... HEAL from it.

- *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans. 12:21*

H - Have it out.

- *"I do not want to come and see you because to come and see you will cause pain and agony and that is why I am writing you this letter." 2 Corinthians 2*
- Know what your goal is in a confrontation.
 1. Relationship growth.
 2. A better understanding of the other person.
 3. A positive action.

E – Evaluate & Elevate the situation.

- *"When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, the apostles and the elders, to whom they told all that God had done through them." Acts 15:4*
- Elevate & Evaluate ... not regurgitate
- *"Some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'The Gentiles must be circumcised and told to obey the law of Moses.'" Acts 15:5*

A – Attitude

- *"Have this attitude which is in Jesus Christ." Philippians 2:5*
- Doorway to a changed attitude is almost always an apology?
- *"The apostles and the elders met together to consider this question. After a long debate, Peter stood up and said, 'My brothers, you know that a long time ago God chose me from among you to preach the good news to the Gentiles so that they could hear and believe. And God, who knows the thoughts of everyone, showed his approval of the Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He has to us. He made no difference between us and them. He forgave their sins because they believed, so then why do we now want to put God to the test by laying a load on the backs of the believers that neither our ancestors nor we ourselves were able to carry. No, we believe that all are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as they are.'"*

L - Love.

- *"And so it seemed good,..." Acts 15:28. And it brought rejoicing to us all.*

Conclusion: Conflict is resolved when there is a positive action & a changed behavior

Monday – Yesterday we learned more about how Paul makes the ethical, practical application (unity) of the theological issue he addresses in this letter (grace). This practical application brings about the possibility of healing from conflict (Ephesians 4:29-32) *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* You have experienced the grace of God's forgiveness...is there anyone you need to forgive today? How else might this passage apply to you?

Tuesday – This week we conclude our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. To complete his letter, Paul called his readers to put on God's armor to avoid Satan's temptations. This will lead to a life of prayer for self and for other servants of God. This will lead to concern for and encouragement from other Christians. As usual, Paul concluded his letter with a benediction, praying for peace, love, faith, and grace for his beloved readers. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. *"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."* Note that the principalities against which we struggle make our efforts to live peacefully a cosmic battle; no wonder we often have conflict with the ones we love! It is one of the schemes of the devil to divide and destroy us. That is why it requires prayer, spirit, & soul ... not just good psychological practices to be people of peace. Take an inventory of your spiritual armor. Is it in good shape?

Wednesday – Read Ephesians 6:18. *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."* Take a day off from your study today and devote the time to pray for our Vacation Bible School teachers, workers, and kids! Pray for grace, understanding, strength, and supernatural strength on behalf of all our teachers that they might teach our children well!

Thursday – Paul is bold enough and humble enough to ask for prayers for himself. (Ephesians 6:19-20) *"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."* To speak on behalf of the Lord is an awesome responsibility...please keep all your pastors who will be preaching for Jim while he's on vacation during July in your prayers!

Friday – Read the closing verses of Paul's letter today. (Ephesians 6:21-24) Let these warm and personal words sink in. Like finding an old letter from a deceased grandparent, the words speak of the truthfulness of events that happened long ago. So is with the Bible! Thanks be to God! *"Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you. Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*