

How to Ruin Relationships And Restore Them God's Way

Lesson Three • Ephesians 4:25-27, 31-32

Live with Unresolved Conflict

How to Ruin Relationships and Restore Them God's Way:

To ruin relationships, live with unresolved CONFLICT.
To restore relationships, resolve conflict God's way.

Resolving Conflict God's Way:

1. I Must Be HONEST With the Person I'm in Conflict With!

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25 ESV

With Whom Will I Have My Worst Conflicts?

The severity of a conflict is not related to the magnitude of the offense as much as it is related to the PROXIMITY of the offender.

2. I Must Control My ANGER and Resolve Conflict QUICKLY!

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil...Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Ephesians 4:26-27, 31 ESV

Where Do Conflicts Come from?

- WRONGS done to me.

- PERCEIVED wrongs done to me.

- DESIRES in my heart that are hindered or unmet. *James 4:1-2*

Why Must I Resolve Conflict Quickly?

Satan seeks a place in your heart called GRUDGE.

*Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.
Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV*

3. I Must Demonstrate the Kindness and FORGIVENESS of God!

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32 ESV*

Five Stages of Conflict Resolution:

- See conflict as an opportunity to LIVE the Gospel.

- Overlook whatever OFFENSES you can.

- Seek their sanctification, not your VINDICATION.

- Initiate RECONCILIATION through forgiveness.

- Don't give up; give God's GRACE a chance to triumph.

Remember the Cross of Christ!

The only way to do all of this is for the Cross of Christ to grow large in our lives.
The reason some people can't forgive is the Cross is so small in their lives.
It seems trivial, not vital in their lives.