



Sermon: "Stewardship of Trouble"

Selected Scripture

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Don't Waste Your Conflict; Work Toward Forgiveness!

I. HEART Matters – Matthew 22:34–40

- A. A **whole**hearted love for God desires what is best for everyone who is involved in conflict.
- B. A **whole**hearted love for my neighbor reveals the condition of my heart.

Peter 4:8 & Proverbs 10:12

II. CONFLICT Happens

Why do we dislike conflict so much?

- A. Actions are hurtful.
- B. Words can cause deep pain and destroy relationships.

James 4:1, Proverbs 18:12, Proverbs 20:3, Proverbs 15:18, Proverbs 17:1

III. RESOLVING CONFLICT through Examination

- A. Examine my heart
 - Am I being a loving neighbor?
 - Am I being selfish?

Romans 12:18

IV. RESOLVING CONFLICT through Communication

- A. Speak the truth in love
- B. Keep Current
- C. Attack the problem, not the person

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:26-27

James 3:5-6, Colossians 4:6

- D. Act; Do not react

Matthew 12:34, Ephesians 4:29, Matthew 7:3-4

V. RESOLVING CONFLICT through Forgiveness

- A. Forgiveness-the key to a healthy spiritual life

- Divine forgiveness-We follow the pattern of our Heavenly Father - Matthew 18:21-24
- Man's forgiveness-We do not follow Peter's pattern of humanistic thinking

Matthew 18:35, I Corinthians 10:31

Mark Rodgers writes, "We must strive to apply godly actions and attributes to our communication."

Kind: benevolent, helpful, courteous

Tenderhearted: compassionate, sympathetic, affectionate

Forgiving: a willingness to pardon the repentant guilty person and to work toward reconciliation."

Ken Sande writes, "The more you understand God's love and power, the easier it is to trust him. And the more you trust him, the easier it is to do his will. This is especially true when you are involved in conflict. If you believe that God is watching over you with perfect love and unlimited power, you will be able to serve him faithfully as a peacemaker, even in the most difficult circumstances."