

DEAL WITH CONFLICTS GOD'S WAY

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

What is GOD'S WAY to deal with conflicts? In Mark 11:25, we are commanded to forgive those who have hurt us. Forgiving someone unilaterally, without them asking, frees us from the poison of bitterness and anger in our hearts. In Matthew 5:23-24, Jesus instructs us to seek forgiveness and, as an act of worship to God, reconcile with those who have something against us. While reconciliation may not always happen right away, we are encouraged in Romans 12:18-19 to do our part to restore relationships and seek peace whenever possible.

The true test of spiritual maturity is reflected in how we deal with conflicts. As followers of Jesus, we are called to a higher standard in addressing disputes and disagreements with others, especially our fellow believers. We are NOT to resolve conflicts like the world does, but in a way that brings honor and glory to the name of God. This is the message that the Apostle Paul urges the church in Corinth to understand and put into practice (1 Corinthians 6:1-11).

CONSIDER WHO YOU ARE

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are saints, consecrated to Jesus. Our sanctification stems from Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins, granting us forgiveness and setting us apart for God's purpose. Consequently, we are called to live in holiness. Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 6:3-4 unveils a profound reality: we will judge angels in the future. As God's children, we are destined to be heirs, as prophesied in scriptures like Daniel 7:9, 13-14, 18, and 27. This truth resonates throughout the New Testament (Revelation 2:26, 5:9-10, 22:5, Luke 19:17). Given our identity in Christ, why would we resort to worldly courts or mediators to resolve conflicts when we have God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

The crucial question we should ask ourselves is this: are we living as saints, set apart for God? Our earthly existence serves as a testing ground for our future reign in God's kingdom. If we truly understand our identity and eternal inheritance in Christ, we will be motivated to settle disputes and cease our conflicts with one another.

CHOOSE TO GLORIFY GOD

In 1 Corinthians 6:5-6, Paul expresses his disappointment that some Christians were taking their disputes to secular courts, which was a poor reflection on their faith. He emphasizes the need for believers to handle conflicts in a way that honors God and avoids bringing shame to the church. Paul's message is clear: Christians should resolve their disputes internally and in consistency with their faith, following the principle of doing everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

COMMIT YOUR RIGHTS TO GOD

We often cling to our perceived rights and entitlements, but the Bible instructs us to relinquish and commit these rights to God. In 1 Corinthians 6:7-8, Paul admonishes the Corinthians for engaging in lawsuits against each other and urges them to prioritize reconciliation by surrendering their rights. The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:2,5-15 offers a valuable lesson. Despite the tension between their people, Abraham chose not to fight with Lot. He placed his faith in the One who bestows ultimate blessings and entrusted the situation to Him. Genesis 19 reveals that Abraham and his family were spared when the land Lot chose was destroyed (Sodom and Gomorrah). As Christians, we bear an identity that compels us to exhibit exemplary behavior before those who have yet to know Christ. Let us demonstrate our trust in a sovereign God to the world around us.

FOCUS ON GOD'S GRACE

In 1 Corinthians 6:8-9, Paul addresses a list of sins within the context of conflict resolution. He points out that some of the Corinthians were engaging in wrongful or unrighteous behavior, which is inconsistent with their identity as followers of Christ. He reminds them that they have been "washed, sanctified, and justified" in the name of Jesus through God's grace (v.11). Paul's message aligns with Titus 2:11-12, which emphasizes that God's grace not only brings salvation but also instructs believers to lead transformed lives. This transformation involves living righteously and rejecting ungodliness. It is God's grace that empowers believers to effectively address and resolve conflicts in a manner that reflects their faith.

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE

How will knowing your identity in Christ impact your response to conflicts?

Is it easy to commit your rights to God? Share one situation where you did this and what the result was.

How will experiencing God's grace in your life transform you and enable you to reconcile with others?

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with Malu Ortiz

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GLC Level 1 Face-to-Face [OPEN TO ALL]

- Book 1: One-by-One, 10:45 AM, Room 4A
- Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines, 1:45 PM, Room 4A
- Book 4: CCF DNA, 1:45 PM, Room 3A

GLC Level 1 — Zoom Cycle 3 [Session 1] September 20, 2023, Wednesday at 7:30 PM

- Book 1: One-by-One
- Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines
- Book 4: CCF DNA

GLC Level 2 — Cycle 1 Face-to-Face September 17, 2023, Sunday at 1:00 PM, Room 2A
Book 6: Basic Doctrines [Session 6]

GLC Level 2 — Zoom Cycle 1 September 21, 2023, Thursday at 7:30 PM

Book 7: Family Life [Session 1]

GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom Cycle 1 September 21, 2023, Thursday at 7:30 PM

Module 6: Reliability of the Bible [Session 1]

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments — Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. — Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. — Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



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5:00 PM

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