

Find Your Seat: Difficult Dinner Conversations

May 27 & 28, 2023

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

BIG IDEA: There is a biblical way to handle family conflicts.

Peter and Paul

Galatians 2:11-14 | ¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

1. CONFRONT conflict directly.

Ephesians 4:29-32 (NLT) | ²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

2. Speak TRUTH, but do so KINDLY. (v.31)

3. If you were offended, SHOW GRACE.

If you offended someone else, OWN IT.

NEXT STEP: Take the first step in reconciling a relationship.

Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

Tell the group about a conflict resolution gone bad. Now share about one that went well. What were the key differences? How did you feel after each? Did YOU handle it well?

Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

Digging Deeper:

Read **Colossians 3:12-17**

Colossians 3:12-17 | ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What does it mean to CLOTHE yourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience?

Which of those five characteristics are you best at? Which one do you struggle the most with?

If someone was approaching you to confront a sin in you, which of these would you most want shown?

What has God shown you about your character through today's study?

Application:

Identify a place of conflict in an important relationship. Now create a plan to go address it in a healthy, biblical way. Choose your words and demeanor now.

Jesus, help me to identify and address the conflict that exists in my relationships. Help me to point it out in a loving way. Help me to extend grace to those that have offended me and and seek forgiveness from those I have offended.