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“The Gospel and relationships”
Eph. 4:1-6

Introduction:

Principle: Your Christianity intersects with all of life!

I. The motivation for dealing with relationships in a Christian way (verses 1 and 4-6).

A. Our calling according to Paul

1. “calling”=

F.F. Bruce “Those who have been chosen by God to sit with Christ in the heavenly places must remember that the honor of Christ is involved in their daily lives.”

Principle: Christians are called to respond to relationships (conflict in particular) in a way remarkably different than the world.

2. Verses 4-6

3. Chap 1—we are people of...

4. 1:22-23

5. 2:8-10

Principle: Following the example of the Gospel, we move toward others not away.

B. Our calling and how it relates to conflict according to Philippians

1. 1:27

2. 2:14

C. Conflict in other New Testament epistles

D. How Gospel terminology/theology impacts conflict resolution
II. The method for dealing with relationships in a Christian way (verses 2-4).

A. Attitudes or character traits that start on the inside

1. All humility
2. Gentleness
3. With patience
4. Showing forbearance

B. Analyzing why these are difficult (taking Matthew 12:34 seriously).

1. Heart=
2. What's in your heart?

C. Actions that result in preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1. Being diligent=
Don't let relationships wither!

Principle: **All Christians are responsible for preserving the unity of the Spirit.**

Question: Where do your energies go in conflict?

2. Some help from "Peacemaker" principles.

3. Implications and questions to ask:

- Think of the relationship where you are feeling tension—according to what you just heard, what are a couple of things you should do?
- Who should you talk to first, the pastor an elder or the other person?

Conclusion: