

REAL Relationships – Part 5

Pastor Rick – 3/7/21

Icebreaker: In a word or two, describe how conflict typically was handled in your home growing up (e.g., avoidance, yelling, sarcasm, the silent treatment)?

The Purpose: To resolve a conflict maturely by eliminating “dirty fighting” tactics, and by taking responsibility for a difficult issue.

Discuss:

1. What obstacles, difficulties, or successes did you experience in meeting with God this past week?
2. Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9). What blessings might there be on the other side of learning this very important skill – in your personal life, relationships, work, or church?
3. Read Daniel 1:8-17. Consuming the royal food and wine was not permissible for Daniel. What steps did he take to resolve his conflict with those in authority over him? Imagine yourself as Daniel. What might you have done? Describe the result of Daniel’s negotiation with the guard.
4. Pete Scazzero says, “Conflict is normal, important, and necessary if relationships are to enter their next level of growth and maturity.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

Application:

1. Review and practice the Clean Fight process:
 - Speaker: ask for permission to do a clean fight.
 - Listener: repeat back what you hear the speaker saying by paraphrasing after each sentence.
 - Speaker: (1) State the problem, “I notice...”;
(2) State why it is important to you. “I value...because...”
(3) Fill in the following sentence: “When you...I feel...”
(4) State your request clearly, respectfully, and specifically, including details such as times and/or dates.
2. In what kind of situations, or with whom, are you routinely tempted to avoid conflict and settle for a false peace? Consider Jesus’ Model of True Peacemaking:
 - He brought disruption in order to bring true peace.
 - He did not avoid conflict or appease people.
 - He didn’t ignore tensions or differences.
3. Jesus said, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13). What is one concrete way you can show mercy to someone today?
4. Continue spending time alone with God in silence.

Close in prayer together.