

Relatability - Conflict

Ice-Breaker: What method of discipline did your folks employ during your childhood? Do you have one specific story that you remember?

One of God's highest priorities for His people is peace and unity...

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Rom. 12:18)

Conflict: a symptom of an underlying need or desire – “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.” (James 4:1-2a) – Are you more of a Conflict Instigator or a Peace Pursuer? Would your wife/friend/family member agree? If a “Conflict Instigator” can you honestly identify the underlying need or desire that keeps you instigating such conflict?

☛ **The toxic trifecta that robs peace and fuels conflict: Assumicide, presumicide and naggicide** – “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” (Prov. 14:12)

With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. (Judges 16:16)

♀ **Conflict can deepen and mature relationships** – “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company... Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.” (Acts 15:39, 2 Tim. 4:11b) – Concerning the above point, do you see conflict from this perspective? Have you ever experienced deeper/mature relationship as a result of properly handled conflict? If not, what generally is your perspective and experience?

Helpful reminders when navigating conflict... of the 5 reminders below, which is the hardest for you personally? Which might need to be applied immediately in a conflicted relationship?

- **Own up** – “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Prov. 28:13)
- **Stay calm** – “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.” (Prov. 29:11)

♀ **If the horse is dead, dismount** – “Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.” (Prov. 17:14)

- **The Golden Rule** – “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31)
- **The Platinum Rule** – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)

♀ **It's okay to give a “hallpass”** – “A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” (Prov. 19:11)

- **Trust God** – “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jer. 32:17)

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:19-20)

As Christ has brokered peace for us, we too are to pursue peace as Christians. What needs to change in order for us to broker peace in our relationships? Pray for that together as a group.