

Conflict resolution and forgiveness

Biblical rules in conflict management (Gal 5:14)

- "Speak the truth in love" (Eph 4:15)
- "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Eph 4:26)
- ". . . esteem other (s) better than themselves." (Phil 2:3)
- Conference table rules (based on Ephesians 4)
 - Be honest (vs. 15, 25)
 - Speak
 - Speak the truth
 - Speak the truth lovingly
- Keep current (16, 27)
 - If more than one problem, deal with one at a time
 - If a problem from before, it should have been forgiven and not brought up again
- Attack the problem, not the person (29, 30)
 - What is the problem?
 - What is the solution we are seeking?
- Act, don't react (31, 32)
 - Follow God's Word
 - Follow God's Way
- Must extend forgiveness (Eph 4:32)
- The nature of Forgiveness (Matthew 18:15-18)
 - The need for forgiveness: restoration
 - The meaning of forgiveness
 - Forgiveness is a promise made and kept to not remember another's sins against you any more.
 - You can only confront if you are willing to forgive

- The aspects of the promise of forgiveness (Ps. 103:12)
 - I won't bring the matter up to you again
 - I won't bring it up to others
 - I won't bring it up to myself

- The basis of forgiveness (Eph 4:32)

- God's forgiveness of us (John 3:16)

- The new relationship after forgiveness
 - Barriers removed
 - Bonds cemented
 - Tests of forgiveness
 - Can you thank God for the lessons learned during the pain?
 - Can you talk about your hurt without getting angry, without feeling resentful, without the slightest thought of revenge?
 - Is there a willingness to accept our part of the blame for what happened?
 - Can you revisit the scene, or the people involved in your hurt, without experiencing a negative reaction?
 - Can you reward those who have hurt you with good?

- The need to remember God's forgiveness

- Vital to:
 - Christian dedication
 - Forgiving attitude toward others
 - Successful local church
 - Christian home