

family matters

Fighting Fair – James 3:18-4:3

Common Approaches to Conflict

1. Peace-keeper
2. Peace-killer
3. Peace-maker

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:18

What Causes Fights?

Question: What causes fights & quarrels among you?

Answer: _____ desires

Antidote: _____ God & others

Fighting Fair

1. Shift your _____ (James 4:2c-3 & Luke 6:41-42)
2. Press _____ (Proverbs 19:11)
3. _____ in (Luke 6:41-42 & Matthew 18:15-17)
4. _____ actively (Proverbs 13:3 & 15:1)
5. Move _____ (Romans 12:18 & Ephesians 4:32)

Fighting Fairness

"But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

Going Deeper:

Resolving Everyday Conflict by Ken Sande
Crucial Conversations by Joseph Grenny

Family Matters: Fighting Fair

Sermon on October 15, 2023

James 4:1-3

Getting to Know Me

1. Come up with a list of 3 things that drive you crazy (someone chewing with their mouth open; smacking gum; someone who's always late...). Share your list with your Growth Group to see if you have any in common.
2. How do you usually react when you don't get something you want or believe you need?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn from Pastor Phil's message this past Sunday?
4. Read James 4:1-3. On Sunday, Phil asked "Have you ever wanted something... and when you didn't get it, it caused a rift in a relationship or a fight with someone close to you? Or have you ever gone after something and gotten it... but at the expense of a relationship?" Think about a conflict you had with someone in the last month or so. What did you fight about? What do these verses reveal about that fight?
5. When you think of being a Peace Keeper, Peace Killer or Peace Makers, which do you think comes most naturally for you? What are the strengths of your approach? What would you like to change about your default approach?

6. How is honoring God and others the antidote to fighting? Read these scriptures and consider: how do these verses help you become a Peace Maker?
 - Ephesians 5:21
 - Philippians 2:1-5 & Luke 6:41-42

7. Read the following Proverbs. What advice from these verses resonates and challenges you the most? Why?
Prov. 12: 16 Prov. 13:3 Prov. 15:11
Prov. 17:14 Prov. 19:11

8. Phil gave the following steps to help us become Christlike Peace Makers. Which is the most difficult for you? Why? How do you grow that area so it becomes a strength for you? How would that change your life?

Shift Your Focus

Press Pause

Lean In

Listen Actively

Move On

Where Do I Go from Here?

9. How difficult is it for you to forgive and move on? Read Romans 5:8. Who do you need to forgive today?
10. Choose one or two areas to focus on in your quest to fight fairly. Pray for strength and wisdom. Share your desire with a good friend or your spouse. Encourage one another as you grow together.

Prayer

As you close Growth Group, pray for God's strength to fight fair and give grace.

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Antidote: Honor God & others

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2. Press pause (Proverbs 19:11)
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5. Listen actively (Proverbs 13:3 & 15:1)
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