

KEEP YOU EARS OPEN & YOUR EYES PEELED

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Sermon on January 15, 2017 (by Ray Reynolds)

Introduction: There are several reasons for seeking resolution when we face conflict, especially for those who wear the name of Christ. In this lesson, we will focus on keeping our ears open and our eyes peeled. How can we identify conflict? How can we resolve it? What biblical principles should we learn? We will start with the advice of James, the half-brother of Jesus, who gives advice to Christians who are facing conflict (**James 1:19-25**). Let's study together about how to apply it...

Discussion:

I. What Are Rules of Conflict Resolution?

- A. Realize that there is a conflict (**James 4:1-12**).
- B. Regulate your actions to what will glorify God (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
- C. Remove the log out of your own eye (**Matthew 7:1-6**).
- D. Resolve to go and show your brother his fault (**Matthew 18:15-17**).
- E. Reconcile the relationship with your brother/sister (**Galatians 6:1-2**).

II. How Can We Identify & Resolve Church Conflict?

- A. The Warning Signs
 1. Refusing to put God first
 2. Ignoring Biblical authority
 3. Trying to change worship styles
 4. Pushing issues or hobby horses
 5. Rebelling against the elders
 6. Redefining the role of women
 7. Lack of love & sacrifice for brethren
 8. Forcing opinions & binding traditions
 9. Legalism & liberalism
- B. The Way to Conflict Resolution
 1. Protect the weaker brother/sister (**I Corinthians 8:1-13**).
 2. Protest that Satan is the source of all conflict (**I Corinthians 14:33**).
 3. Place others before yourself and be a servant (**Luke 19:10**).
 4. Pray before you make any judgment or approach anyone (**Galatians 6:1-2**).
 5. Praise God when you find resolution (**Luke 17:3-4**).

III. How Can We Identify & Resolve Family Conflict?

- A. The Warning Signs
 1. Refusing to put God first
 2. Trying to change the other person
 3. Pushing your own views & opinions
 4. Redefining the marital roles
 5. Lack of love & sacrifice
 6. Selfishness & pride exists
 7. Existentialist talk & "what if" scenarios
 8. No communication & isolation
 9. No honesty or humility
- B. The Way to Conflict Resolution
 1. Protect the weaker vessel and your marital roles (**I Peter 3:1-7**).
 2. Protest that Satan is the source of all conflict (**I Corinthians 14:33**).
 3. Place your spouse before yourself and be a servant (**Luke 19:10**).
 4. Pray before you sit down to discuss the conflict (**I Thessalonians 5:17**).
 5. Praise God when you find resolution (**Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9**).

Conclusion: **Psalm 128** is considered the "Happy Home" psalm. Read it. Apply it. And realize what a blessing it is to have a godly home! We are blessed to be a part of the family of God! May God continue to grant us peace and give us the ability to resolve our conflicts.