

DON'T FAN THE FLAME

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 8, 2017 (Sunday Evening Sermon by Ray Reynolds)

INTRODUCTION: We need to learn how to identify conflict. One of the ways we can do this is identify the warning signs before it gets out of control. In this lesson we are going to talk about what to do when we see a spark or a flame. Whatever you do... don't fan the flame! Let's study together...

DISCUSSION:

I. How Can We Identify Conflict?

- ✓ When people demand to be listened to, heard, and understood.
- ✓ When people can no longer be honest and forthright with you.
- ✓ When people ignore fairness.
- ✓ When people are unwilling to participate in discussions.
- ✓ When people step outside of their role and/or ignore the rules.
- ✓ When people are not consistent.
- ✓ When people are unwilling to mutually discuss things.
- ✓ When people are not willing to treat each other with respect.
- ✓ When people are confused about their roles.
- ✓ When people cannot meet any agreement and are unwilling to try or participate in resolution.

II. How Should We Handle The Conflict? (Acts 6:1-7)

- ✓ Watch for signs of strife and pray about it.
- ✓ Try not to be the last to know or react.
- ✓ Look for subtle signs of a struggle and open doors for resolution.
- ✓ If you sense a conflict is imminent try to find the source of the problem.
- ✓ Work on a solution quickly and effectively.

III. How Do People React in a Conflict?

- ✓ Defend A Position (Judas)
- ✓ Clam Up (Elijah)
- ✓ Ignore It (David)
- ✓ Fight Dirty (Ahab & Jezebel)
- ✓ Work It Out (The Apostles)

IV. What Is The Lifecycle of a Firestorm? (FIRESTORM by Ron Susek)

- ✓ Phase 1: Sparks
- ✓ Phase 2: Ignition
- ✓ Phase 3: Full Fury
- ✓ Phase 4: Consuming Winds
- ✓ Phase 5: The Final Burn
- ✓ Phase 6: Rebuilding

CONCLUSION: The apostle Paul revealed a pattern for the New Testament church (**I Corinthians 13:4-7**). Most of us have found ourselves in brokenness, pain and suffering but we strive to be more like Jesus! If we learn to love one another, and not fan the flame, we will be closer to the perfect image of Jesus! Love conquers all!