



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Sermon

June 4, 2017 (by Ray Reynolds)

“Fighting Foolishly vs. Fighting Fair”



Introduction: In the past year, we have talked about learning to respect one another, love one another, and how to approach someone to make peace. We have covered many great Bible passages. Tonight, we are going to focus on **Colossians 3**. I think this passage has a lot to tell us about conflict. Paul is talking about our new life in Christ. We need to react more Christ-like when conflict comes our way. We can learn how to fight foolishly or fight fair. Which will you choose? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. FIGHTING FOOLISHLY IS ABOUT FEAR, FLESH & FRUSTRATION

- **Romans 7:21-25, Galatians 5:19-21, 6:9, Ephesians 6:12, I Peter 5:7, II Timothy 1:7**
 - 1) Choose NOT to bring up the past.
 - 2) Choose NOT to hit below the belt.
 - 3) Choose NOT to play games.
 - 4) Choose NOT to be passive aggressive.
 - 5) Choose NOT to ignore the person's feelings.
 - 6) Choose NOT to ask for explanations of behavior.
 - 7) Choose NOT to forget your real enemy.
- Why would a Christian choose to fight foolishly?

II. FIGHTING FAIR IS ABOUT FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & FORGIVENESS

- **Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 41:10, John 16:33, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 4:7**
 - 1) Choose to talk to God about the problem.
 - 2) Choose to personally confront the problem.
 - 3) Choose the issue wisely.
 - 4) Choose the right time.
 - 5) Choose the right place.
 - 6) Choose a positive approach.
 - 7) Choose to express anger non-abusively.
- Why should a Christian choose to fight fairly?

III. FOLLOWERS OF GOD MUST CHOOSE TO FIGHT FOOLISHLY OR FAIRLY

- **Proverbs 3:5-6, 14:12, 16:25, Matthew 6:33, 7:13-14, Romans 8:28, Colossians 2, I John 4:4**
 - 1) Remember to react like Christ.
 - 2) Remember to put off evil things.
 - 3) Remember to put on good things.
 - 4) Remember your calling and purpose.
 - 5) Remember to teach what you have learned.
 - 6) Remember to preserve good relationships.
 - 7) Remember your reward in Heaven.
- What choice will you make when you deal with conflict?

Conclusion: There is a big difference between healthy and unhealthy conflict. God has created us for relationships. His desire is for us to pass on what we have learned from our relationship with Him. What can we learn from that relationship? Are you ready to follow Jesus? Will you surrender to His will?