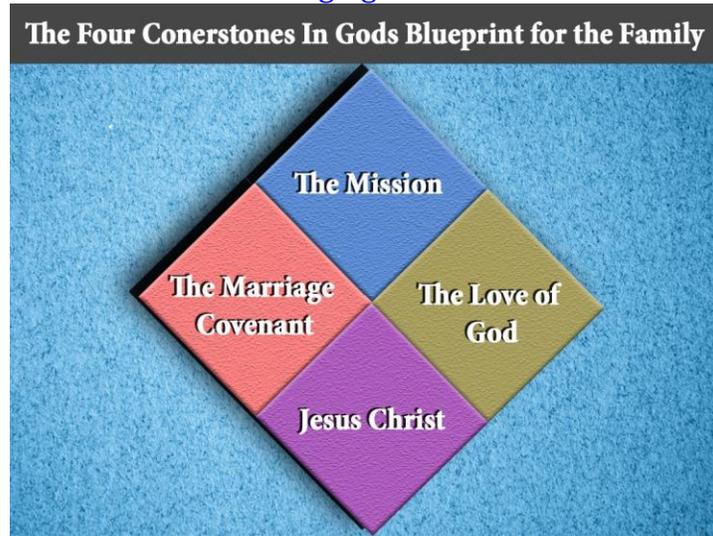


God's Blueprint For The Family Managing Conflict



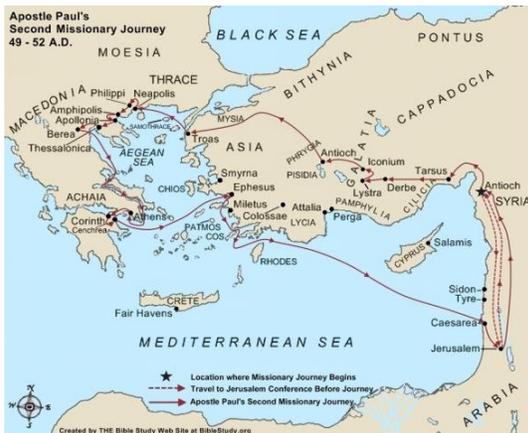
In this sermon series we have learned from God's Word the four cornerstones in God's blueprint for the family.

We have learned from God's Word how to build our family on these cornerstones by managing issues God's Way.

Managing our moral and social responsibilities to one another.

Managing money.

Managing conflict.



Philippians 4:2

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
NKJV

In the church of Philippi there were two women named Euodia and Syntyche. They were experiencing conflict in their relationship. They had significantly helped Paul share the gospel in that community. Most believe that they were spiritual leaders in the church whose job was to disciple the female members of the church. It would have been

inappropriate for men to carry this responsibility in private and become intimately involved with the female members.

Something happened that divided these two women. They were at odds with another. They were experiencing a conflict in their relationship.

In a letter to the whole church, Paul publicly implores them to resolve the conflict. This looks extreme!

But Paul understood that this had to be done for the sake of the gospel.

Phil. 1:27

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
NKJV

Phil. 2:14

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
NKJV

Philippi was a strategic inroad for the gospel in Europe.

The mission of the church is to make disciples. The church is to care for the poor but caring for the poor is not our mission. The church is to care for the sick but caring for the sick is not our mission. The church is to provide fellowship but fellowship is not our mission. The church is to provide education but education is not our mission. Our mission to share the gospel and make disciples.

Division always hinders the progress of the gospel. How?

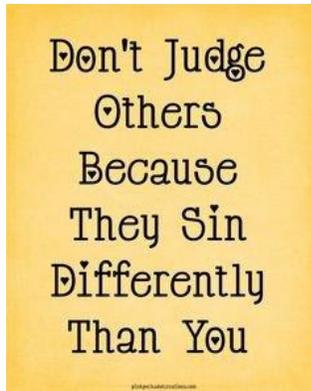
- Division detracts the people who are having the conflict from the gospel
- Division detracts others in the church from the gospel
- Division spreads a bad report about the church to the lost
- Division detracts the leadership from leading the church to share the gospel

So Paul said...

Phil. 1:27....

stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
NKJV

Conflict in relationships is normal when you are sharing life together. We should never be surprised. Conflict is unavoidable because we are fallen and we live in a fallen world. People sin. People make mistakes. People are error prone. People are poorly trained. People are insensitive.



For the sake of the gospel, we cannot afford to let these conflicts divide us and hinder the progress of the gospel.

Conflicts should be dealt with swiftly for the sake of the gospel.

Conflicts should be dealt with in love for the sake of the gospel.

[John 13:34-35](#)

[34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."](#)

[NKJV](#)

[How do we relate to one another in love when there is conflict?](#)

- [Check your tongue.](#)

[Phil. 2:14-15](#)

[14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,](#)

[NKJV](#)

When you are offended your tendency in the flesh will be to immediately tell others how you have been offended.

Why?

You love yourself and in the flesh you want other people to feel sorry for you. One way to make this happen is talk to others.

You also want to vent how you feel. Venting makes you feel better. Venting releases feelings of hurt and anger. Venting makes your flesh feel like you are getting justice. One way to vent is talk to others.

Telling others about the offense is called complaining and disputing by the apostle Paul.

The word complain means to grumble or murmur to others. The word dispute means to rehearse a debate, first in your mind, and then with others.

In other verses of scripture, telling others about the offense who are not a part of the solution is called slander.

Paul said if you will learn to check your tongue you will become blameless and harmless. You won't be viewed as a person that others want to avoid.

So if you are not supposed to immediately talk to others, what should you do with how you feel?

When there is conflict the first person you need to talk to is God.



The reason you need to talk to Him first is that no one else can empower you sufficiently to control the poisonous snake that lives in your mouth. God is the only one who can bridle the wild horse that is called your tongue.

God is the only one who can meet your deeper needs that are not being met by others.

So talk to God first and check your tongue.

- Check your attitude

Phil. 2:5-7

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
NKJV

The word mind literally means attitude. An attitude is a way of thinking.

It is natural to love yourself and think about yourself first when you are offended. But to remain focused on yourself, your offense, your hurt, your pain is not following Jesus. That is being selfish and self-centered and Paul said this....

Phil 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
NKJV

To be like Jesus means to value the welfare and the wellbeing of others over your own personal interests.

To be like Jesus means to change your focus from your hurt to the needs of the person who has hurt you.

Jesus demonstrated this when he said from the cross, Father forgive them for they know not what they do.

There may be a need to speak with the one who offended you and tell them how they made you feel or how they hurt you but the motive for doing this should be their needs and the needs of others, and not your own. Other people are not your savior!

The seeds of genuine love grow in the soil of humility.
They never grow in the soil of pride.

So check your attitude before you do anything and put on the attitude of Jesus Christ.

- Check your responsibility

Phil. 3:1-2

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!
NKJV

Christians should be the most difficult people in the world to personally offend. All of our rights belong to God. He is the owner. We are the steward.

Christians forgive before we are asked. Forgiveness means to send away the offense, the hurt of the offense, and judgement for the offense. To send away simply means you will not entertain it if you remember it.

Most offenses can be forgiven and overlooked.

But should the offense be overlooked? What is your responsibility in the conflict?

That decision is made by considering the well fare of the one who offends you and the welfare of others.

Will further injury occur if you do not do something about the offense? If so you have a responsibility to do something.

What does that responsibility look like in the family and in the church when it is done in love? (Matthew 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1)

- Go to them alone and share with gentleness how you think they were wrong.
- Go with a witness and share with gentleness how you think they were wrong.
- Go to the elders of the church and share with them how you think they were wrong.

The elders represent the church.

Notice telling the world through social media is not on the list. When I first came to Western Hills the primary vehicle for grumbling and disputing was the telephone. Well at least with the phone people were not broadcasting to the whole world. Through social media what you are saying can be broadcast to the whole world.

You are not following Christ if you don't follow His Words in the way you relate to conflict with others.

You will not fulfill your responsibility to your brother in love if you are not following Jesus in your attitude.

Here is the greatest obstacle.

[Phil. 2:19-21](#)

[19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. NKJV](#)
All seek their own and not the things which are of Christ Jesus. Until your heart experiences a change you are going to be one of those church members who is always hindering the progress of the gospel by causing division.

For your heart to change...

You must receive Jesus

You must repent and purpose to manage conflict God's Way

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you repent and purpose to manage conflict God's Way?