**Finding Grace**

**Grace for the Family**

**Family Feud…Resolving Conflicts**

1. It is not the church’s task to sit in judgment of the world.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-13** - *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges.*

2. We acknowledge that God gives the gift of singleness and we rejoice that we have such men and women in our church family.

**1 Corinthians 7:7-8 -** *Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.*

3. The church is a place that welcomes and loves men and women who may have all sorts of familial brokenness in the past.

**Matthew 11:28-30 -** *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

**Philippians 2:15-16 -** *…prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life…*

**Hebrews 4:16 -** *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**I. The Lens of Conflict Resolution - a Sincere Desire to Change Yourself**

**Galatians 6:7** - *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

**Hebrews 12:15** - *…root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled…*

**Hebrews 12:15** - *See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled…*

A. Choose the way of the new self

B. Identify areas of your life that need to change

C. Remember that conflict reveals important data about the nature of both your heart and your relationship with Christ

**James 4:1-4** - *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?*

**II. The Focus of Conflict Resolution – Identifying Grace-Based Solutions**

A. What you shouldn’t speak – unwholesome words

**Proverbs 18:6-7** - *A fool’s lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**James 3:13-17** - *Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

**Proverbs 15:2** - *The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.*

B. What you should speak – gracious words

1. That build the other person up – “good for edification”

2. In a way that is timely – “according to the need of the moment”

3. That give something to the other person – “grace to those who hear”

**III. The Power of Conflict Resolution**

**Ephesians 4:30** - *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

A. You have access to supernatural power as you seek to solve conflicts well

**Romans 15:13** - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Romans 15:14** - *And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.*

B. This power is eternally secure for all who know Christ

**Ephesians 4:30** - *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*