

we can apply them to face conflict show us
 the way we live: the source of it and
 Glorifying God, how we can use the
 Getting the log out of power you give us to
 your own eye, Gently transform it and bring
 restoring, Go and be your peace. Amen.
 reconciled.

Let's pray.
 Jesus we thank and
 praise you for coming
 and making peace
 with us. Thank you
 for not giving us a bit
 of your mind, but you
 chose to give us all
 your heart. As we

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

24 August 2008

Dealing with Conflict 1.

Matthew 16:13-20



Today we begin
 looking at a difficult,
 but very common
 subject: Conflict. Has
 anyone ever
 experienced conflict?
 I'm sure we all have,
 it is one of those
 unavoidable parts of
 life.

Who likes conflict? I
 know some people
 who tell me they
 enjoy a good shouting
 match. Personally I
 would rather avoid
 conflict. Who enjoys
 locking horns with
 their adversary, or
 who would rather
 avoid the situation
 and hope it goes
 away? What's the
 healthy way to handle
 conflict, because
 when conflict isn't
 handled well it can be
 very destructive of
 people and

relationships. But
 when conflict is
 handled in a healthy
 way it can actually
 strengthen
 relationships.
 Conflict can break
 trust or grow trust.

When I shout abuse
 at another person
 does that grow trust
 or destroy trust? Jesus
 says it kills the other
 person: "...anyone
 who says, 'You fool!'
 will be in danger of
 the fire of
 hell." (Matt. 5:22)
 And Proverbs is full
 of sayings about
 people who don't
 control their anger:
 "Reckless words
 pierce like a sword,
 but the tongue of the
 wise brings
 healing." (Prov.
 12:18) "A quick-
 tempered man does

foolish
 things..." (Prov.
 14:17) "A gentle
 answer turns away
 wrath, but a harsh
 word stirs up
 anger." (Prov. 15:1)

Of course I don't
 have to shout to be
 aggressive. I can sulk
 and give people the
 silent treatment. That
 sort of behaviour is
 called passive
 aggressive. You don't
 tell the person what's
 bothering you, you
 just make sure they
 suffer for it. That also
 is an unhealthy
 approach to conflict.

Adam tried the
 avoidance method
 when God asked him
 whether he ate the
 fruit. Before that he
 tried hiding hoping
 God would go away.

<p>Pretending conflict doesn't exist or going to extremes to stay away from a person or situation isn't all that healthy approach to conflict either.</p>	<p>passion is that we reflect him, that we are peacemakers.</p>	<p>Messiah, the Son of the Living God. (Matt. 16:18) Here is the power to change my thinking and my acting.</p>	<p>righteousness which never fails.</p>	<p>each other, or ignoring each other.</p>	<p>church (Jesus community), and the gates of death will not overcome it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 16:18,19)</p>
<p>Jesus goal is not to continue conflict but to bring peace. Each Christmas we celebrate that Jesus is 'The Prince of Peace'. Every Easter we celebrate that Jesus has</p>	<p>In Romans 12 Paul urges us; "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2) When my response to</p>	<p>That is also the message of Isaiah from today; "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke and earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail." (Isa. 51:6)</p>	<p>Flooding my mind with Jesus, with his great mercy, his forgiveness, his selfless love is the bedrock for handling conflict. Then I'm not simply reacting – for a reactor out of control only blows people up.</p>	<p>Wonderfully in Jesus conflict becomes an opportunity to love like we never have before. Conflict becomes a wonderful opportunity to experience the grace of God at work as we're not conformed</p>	<p>to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 16:18,19)</p>
<p>reconciled us with God through his death on the cross. And the Apostle Paul reminds us; "...God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:19,20) Jesus</p>	<p>Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' conflict is shaped by the hurt done to me, then I'm conforming to the pattern of this world. That never results in a healthy outcome. I need to be transformed by focusing on something else. When all I can see is the hurt done to me I can't love my enemy. The bedrock for dealing with conflict is Peter's confession that Jesus is the</p>	<p>earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke and earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail." (Isa. 51:6) When conflict comes, which it certainly will, I can focus on the hurt done to me, I can hang onto that which is passing away, or I can hang onto the Lord's salvation. I can do those right acts and live out the Lord's</p>	<p>Rather when Jesus floods my mind and I live out his right actions, peace; fullness of life, is produced. So let's give up trying to win the fight, getting what we want, and be focused on being Peacemakers, living out what Jesus wants. Because Jesus is our saviour we are empowered to respond to conflict with his life-giving actions and give up wasting life killing</p>	<p>Adversity Builds Character (ABC) to the conflict we're in but that conflict is transformed to reflect Jesus grace and mercy. Jesus reminds me that with him; Adversity Builds Character. Jesus' ABC. And Jesus' passion is to grow a community built on the bedrock of his character: "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my</p>	<p>In Jesus we have the power to transform conflict into a life giving event. We can unlock the situation bringing the kingdom of heaven into people's lives, not blowing thinks up, but blowing the life giving breathe of God into each and every conflict. So over the next four weeks we'll look at these four peacemaking principles and how</p>