

fullness, flooded with his love.

Step on in resolving conflict: Glorify God.

And if you are beginning to feel a guilt trip coming on, kill it and remember you are forgiven in Jesus. You are empowered through Jesus command to love just like him. Kill that guilt trip as you repent and invite Jesus to fill you with

the Holy Spirit that you might always have in mind the concerns of God.

Guilt trips come from the devil, don't take them. Take the ride of your life and follow Jesus, denying yourself, taking up your cross and living life in all of Jesus' fullness. Live with Jesus and let his love flow through you, doing and saying

what comes from Jesus, and your life will be glorifying God.

Let us pray. Jesus thankyou for taking the hurt so that we might give your love instead of more hurt. Show me those people I need to resolve conflict with. Fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I go in your name, doing your way, seeking your glory. Amen.

30 August 2008

Dealing with Conflict 2.

Glorify God



At our recent District Synod the guess presenter spoke on Conflict resolution. This week I received a DVD of his talk. I was interested to hear what he said. He began with the question: 'What does it take for some people to stop fighting?' Then he told a story about a husband and wife who hadn't talked to each other for two months.

The ice was broken when someone else got hurt. His point being, why do we have to wait till someone else gets hurt before we resolve our conflict? That statement made me reflect, that often when it comes to

conflict, I want to see someone get hurt. I'm hurt and you're going to pay for it! What motivates you to resolve conflict? Why do we need to wait till someone else gets hurt?

Today I've got Good News, some has been hurt. We can stop fighting. They were actually killed, because of our conflict. That was our Gospel reading for today, "Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed..." (Matt. 16:21) Jesus has been

hurt, mortally! It's time to give up our fighting. Do we need more death and destruction before we change our ways! Who else has to suffer, or has there already been enough carnage?

What does it take for me to stop fighting?

Our Gospel reading is a well known one, for it is where Jesus rebukes Peter; "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matt. 16:23) When I refuse to deal with a conflict. When I refuse to stop fighting, quite plainly

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

I'm doing a Peter; 'I have in mind merely human concerns.' I've clearly forgotten Jesus' agenda.

What is Jesus' agenda: to keep fighting, ignoring each other, gossiping about how useless the other is and that my

way is of course the right way.

What is Jesus' agenda? What has he died for? What was he prepared to give his life for?

Jesus gave his life so that I could be proven right? Maybe not. Jesus' agenda, the reason he died, was so that we might be reconciled. So that we might deal with conflict in a healthy way, which results in a Christ-like outcome. I believe Jesus died that we might love each other.

That doesn't mean we won't have conflict, or differences of opinion, or a clash of personalities. What it does mean is that Jesus calls me to resolve these issues in a way that fits with his character.

When I refuse to talk

What does it take for you to stop fighting?

to someone giving them the silent treatment, is that following Christ's character? When I yell and scream, throw things to get my own way; is that following Christ's character? When I use my power and authority to lord it over another person to win an argument, is that Christ-like? The answer to all such questions is, no!

That's me having

merely human concerns and not having in mind the concerns of God.

Peter wasn't interested in seeing Jesus die, his desire was to see his enemy die. Peter's answer to Roman occupation was to kill other

people. Jesus' answer to the root cause of conflict was to die. To die in our place so that we could give up hurting each other and be freed to love.

To love even our enemies, just like Jesus.

I must confess that when I reflect on the price Jesus has paid that I might live at peace I feel guilty. I need to repent of those times I was only interested in winning and paid no attention to loving.

After Jesus' rebuke of Peter he said; "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matt.16:24) The way I follow Jesus is that I deny myself and seek his will.

Does Jesus want to kill this person or save them? If Jesus wants to kill them, go for it, rip

them to shreds with your words, torture them with your silence, break them and make them pay. But if Jesus wants to save them, go for it, help them overcome their fears, listen to what they say asking the Holy Spirit to save you from being defensive. Jesus is my defender, the one who has called me loved and precious. Listen and then follow Paul's advice;

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph 4:29) Forget about winning the argument, win the

Build others up according to their needs

person, love the person, just as Jesus. That certainly is Jesus' agenda; "A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples. If you love one another." (John 13:34,35) Or in our reading from Romans today; "Be devoted to

one another in love... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:10,21) And the greatest good is Jesus. This certainly is the concerns of God.

Step one in resolving conflict: Glorify God. Glorify God as you have in mind the concerns of God and kill the merely human concerns, not the human being. Have in mind the concerns of God and love the person, just as if Jesus was embracing them, rescuing them from a life stifled by unresolved anger, hatred, revenge, bitterness, resentment, selfishness. What a horrible mess to suffocate in, when Jesus offers the joy of living life in all his