

Dear Discouraged - Part 6

"we-Harmony"

Pastor Bill Bush
March 15, 2009

BIG IDEA:

When life seems discouraging pursue relational harmony instead of hostility

SIX ATTITUDES THAT DEFUSE CONFLICT - 1 Peter 3:8-11

1. Understand and affirm feelings *"Be sympathetic..."*

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

2. Be loyal *"...have brotherly love..."*

"If you love someone, you'll be loyal to him no matter what the cost..."
1 Corinthians 13:7 (LB)

"Accept one another just as Christ accepted you." Romans 15:7

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

3. Demonstrate generous love *"...be compassionate..."*

"(Speak) what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

4. Be Honest with my weaknesses, needs, and failures *"...be humble..."*

"Pride only leads to arguments" Proverbs 13:10

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

5. Give more kindness than justice demands *"...do not repay..." vs. 9*

"Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

6. Watch my words *"...keep his tongue from evil..." vs. 10*

"Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal." Proverbs 12:18

1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9
Poor Great

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SHARPEN THE POINT
March 15, 2009

For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: The story of Jacob and Esau's relationship is told in many chapters of the Bible. It is a story of deceit, deception, conflict, and difficulties in pursuing relational healing. Begin by reading the following passages in Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-19, 28:10-22, 32:3-28, and 33:1-4.

Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of stew! Think of a time your near-sightedness has kept you from considering the long-term consequences of your actions. Explain.

Think about your relationships with family and friends. How honest are you in them? To what degree are you loyal and loving? Can you honestly say you *pursue* relational harmony? In what areas could you most use God's help?

After Jacob's encounter with God and his surrender to Him, his relationships with others were also changed. In what specific ways has your personal walk with God affected your relationships with others?

How humbling is it to consider that God will never ask you to forgive others more than He has forgiven you? How hard is it for you to forgive others? In what circumstances is it most difficult?

"Finally, all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds."
1 Peter 3:8

March 8, 2009 - Sharpen The Point (questions from last week's study)

SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR A COUPLE:

1. Are we partners or competitors?
2. Are we helping each other become more spiritual?
3. Are we depending on the externals or the eternal? The artificial or the real?
4. Do we understand each other better?
5. Are we sensitive to each other's feelings and ideas, or taking each other for granted?
6. Are we seeing God answer our prayers?
7. Are we enriched because of our marriage, or robbing each other of God's blessing?

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