

**SHOES - Part 1
"If the Shoe Fits"
Pastor Bill Bush
June 7, 2009**

And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18 (NLT)

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH CONFLICT?

What is conflict?

A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires!

Is conflict good or bad?

What causes conflict? Four things...

1. Misunderstandings resulting from poor communication. Proverbs 18:13, James 3:13-18, Joshua 22:10-34
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions. Acts 15:39, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
3. Competition over limited resources, such as time or money, is a frequent source of disputes in families, churches, and businesses. Genesis 13:1-12
4. Sinful attitudes and desires that lead to sinful words and actions. James 4:1-3

How do we typically respond to conflict? Two ways...

1. Escape Responses (Peacefaking): Focus is "ME"
Denial: Genesis 16:1-6 (Abraham and Sarah)
1 Samuel 2:22-25 (Eli and his sons)
Flight: Genesis 16:6-8 (Hagar fleeing Sarah)
1 Samuel 19:9-10 (David fleeing Saul's madness)
Suicide: 1 Samuel 31:4 (Saul's suicide)
2. Attack Responses (Peacebreaking): Focus is "YOU"
Assault: Acts 6:8-15
Litigation: 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 5:25-26
Murder: Acts 7:54-58

**THE BIG IDEA:
Take off the shoes of unhealthy conflict!**

Are you willing to take off your Running Shoes or Combat Boots and stand on Holy Ground?

**SHOES - PART 1
SHARPEN THE POINT
June 7, 2009**

For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: In today's lesson, we have an overview of conflict's causes and our typical responses. The Bible is filled with instruction on the subject. Begin your study by reading **The Book of James**, which contains some of those instructions, as well as encouragements for living our faith in everyday life.

What role does conflict play in my life – in my primary relationships - and what are the most common sources of conflict?

What is my typical response when conflict arises? How willing am I to look at my part in the problem? How large a factor is my pride in any issue? Would I rather have peace or be right?

How willing am I to forgive as well as to accept – *or expect* – forgiveness? What has this looked like in "real life"?

When I seek God's wisdom in a matter of conflict, and the conflict persists, how hard have I listened for His answer? Have I sought the answer in His Word? How willing am I to accept God's answer and obey Him?

*"Most important,
continue to show deep love for each other,
for love covers a multitude of sins."
1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)*