

CONFLICT: Resolving Family Differences to Find Real Unity

FAITH & FAMILY #4 – Pastor Gary Combs – August 9, 2015 – Ephesians 4:25-32

Ephesians 4:25-32 (ESV) ²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT AND RESTORE ONENESS:

1. Confront conflict _____.

Four “M”s of Confronting Conflict:

- **Motive** - _____

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV) Rather, speaking the truth in love...

- **Message** - _____

- **Moment** - _____

- **Method** - _____

Proverbs 15:1 (NIV) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2. Address anger _____.

Proverbs 14:29 (NLT) Those who control their anger have great understanding; those with a hasty temper will make mistakes.

3. Communicate _____.

Colossians 4:6 (NIV) Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

4. Pursue unity _____.

Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.