



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Proverbs: Becoming Wise in our Conflicts

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1, 21:2, 11:14

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

² A person may think their own ways are right,
but the LORD weighs the heart. (NIV)

¹⁴ Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall;
But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety. (NKJV)

Sermon Outline:

We increasingly live in a world where we face conflict, and there is nothing that we can do to stop conflict that comes our way. To be human is to experience conflict.

When we experience conflict in our lives, we typically go one of three ways: we either avoid conflict or people, see it as an opportunity to defeat someone or see it as opportunity to wisely and lovingly negotiate our differences. Where do you typically go when conflict surfaces?

If I'm going to mature in Christ, I need to learn how to deal with conflict.

Conflict: a serious disagreement regarding a meaningful situation. The type of conflict we are referring to here is normal emotionally charged disagreements we have with others, not abusive or dangerous types of situations.

Three different stages of human relationships:

Heavenly Stage: a romanticized or idealized stage.

Hellish Stage: a letdown takes place.

Holding the Tensions Stage: people are no longer angels or demons but we are a mixture in between both.

Conflict Shouldn't Surprise Us. We shouldn't be surprised when conflicts take place. The Bible is full of conflicts causing many challenges in the communities of the Bible because they were not equipped to have difficult conversations.

Conflict Requires Confrontation. We are not to address this with hostility but with our words. We are not to try and pray conflict away but instead are to use our prayer to courageously step into our conflicts.

What does it mean to be people who are wise in our conflicts? How can we glorify the Kingdom of God in our conflicts?

Conflict calls for Calm Presence (Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.)
A gentle answer calls for a calm presence. What type of speech are you using when you address conflict? We are called to open ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to do in us that which we cannot do ourselves

Conflict calls for Humility (Proverbs 21:2 - A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart.)
We all have blind spots, and don't all see as clearly that we think we do. To address conflicts in the way of wisdom requires us to grow in humility.

Conflict calls for Community (Proverbs 11:14 - Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.)

We all need community to help us see what we cannot see and to gain wisdom in difficult situations and conflicts.

REST

REFLECT: On source of your anxiety.

EXPLORE: Your own values on the matter.

SEEK: Out others you can process with.

TRUST: That God can give you grace for hard moments.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be different from the world to live lovingly, wisely, compassionately becoming wise in our conflicts with one another.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor continues our sermon series on the book of Proverbs. Pastor Rich focuses on how we are to work through our conflicts in a way that is marked by love, integrity, and the way of Jesus.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what did conflict look like in your home? Did your family scream and yell when there was conflict, did your family avoid conflict, or was conflict address with a sense of calm and humility? Can you see the way in which your experience growing up in your family helped shaped how you deal with conflict today? Journal your responses to these questions, maybe sharing them with your small group.
3. When we encounter conflict, we typically deal with it in one of three ways: we avoid the conflict, we see the conflict as an opportunity to defeat someone or we see the conflict as opportunity to wisely negotiate our differences. Which of the three of these do you see yourself leaning towards when you experience conflict? In your quiet time this week, offer your answer up to God, asking for forgiveness and wisdom when it comes to conflict.
4. Where do you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to this week? Are you to be a calm presence with your speech when it comes to conflicts with others? Do you need to become more humble in your conflicts, asking for help in understanding why others might feel the way they do? Or maybe you need to seek out the community of others asking for guidance and prayer, whether in your small group or with a trusted brother or sister in Christ?
5. When you encounter conflict this week, remember to use REST (reflect, explore, seek and trust) so that you are able to address your conflicts with love and integrity.