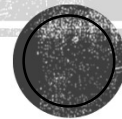


# PEACEMAKING AND PRESUPPOSITIONS

Resolving Conflict in the Run of the Life with Gospel Wisdom



1

## RESETTING PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

What does it mean to glorify God? This should be our ruling vertical desire in conflict resolution

- “Generally: “Feeling, thinking and acting in ways that reflect his greatness, that make much of God, that give evidence of the supreme greatness of all his attributes and the all-satisfying beauty of his manifold perfections.” – Piper
- In 1 Cor 10:31 specifically: Obeying and imitating God by loving others, showing mercy, laying down “rights,” forgiving and loving sacrificially.

The importance of love—this should be our ruling horizontal desire and expression of our vertical desire

- 1 Cor 13:1-7; Col 3:12-14

The scope of life and eternity—this should be our constant background context. (2 Cor. 4:17-18)



2

## GOSPEL FOUNDATION FOR FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt. 18:21-35)

### **Step Two: Start with Yourself (Matt. 7:1-5)**

- Jesus doesn't forbid correcting others, but this isn't the first step
  - Even if you are only responsible for 2% of a conflict, you are still 100% responsible for your 2%.
- The deadly "ifs" and "buts"
- The Golden Response
  - First admissions tend to trigger second admissions.

3

## GETTING TO THE HEART

- Craving often underlie conflict (Jas. 4:1; Gal. 5:17)
- Cravings generally point us to little idols of our heart.
- An idol is something besides God whose worth and value, in our estimation, commands our desires, behaviors and pursuits. Remember that 'worship' comes from the Old English 'worthship'. In idolatry, other desires and pursuits functionally rule our hearts instead of God and his statues because we find them more worthy.
  - Ps. 115:1-8
  - Eph. 5:5
  - Col. 3:5

4

## HOW DO I IDENTIFY MY IDOLS? X-RAY QUESTIONS

- What do you fear? What do you tend to worry about the most in life?
- For what do you sacrifice the most time, energy and resources to achieve?
- What would you consider sinning to obtain or avoid? (stretching the truth counts)
- What must you have or who must you be to feel valuable, important or significant?
- What truths would be the most difficult to accept about yourself?
- When you feel a deep need for practical comfort, what do you eagerly pursue?

