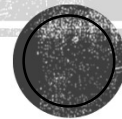


PEACEMAKING AND PRESUPPOSITIONS

Resolving Conflict in the Run of the Life with Gospel Wisdom



1

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 and desire them more.
 - o Ps. 115:1-8
 - o Eph. 5:5
 - o Col. 3:5



2

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 would 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?

3

STEP THREE: THOUGHTFULLY ENGAGE

"I'M SORRY" VS. REPENTANCE

"I'm Sorry"	Repentance
Expresses sorrow for a certain effect or result	Expresses sorrow for one's behavior or actions
Does not include ownership of sin or failure	Highlights ownership of sin and failure
Keeps the ball in the offender's court	Leaves the ball in the offended's court
No implications for the future	Tied to different future efforts and actions

4

CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE: 8 A'S

- **Address** everyone involved (Lk. 19:8)
 - The confession should go as far as the offense.
- **Avoid** 'ifs' and 'buts' (Ps. 51)
 - These words ruin your confession. 'If' means, "I'm not actually confident I did anything wrong," and 'but' shifts blame to other people or circumstances.
- **Admit** specifically.
 - We love to be vague about ourselves, but amazingly specific about others. Confess both your specific actions and underlying attitude.
- **Acknowledge** the hurt
 - Express understanding and genuine sorrow for the way you affected that person. Validate any wounds you may have caused—pain is not true or false.

5

CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE: 8 A'S

- **Accept** the consequences (Luke 19:8)
 - A willingness to accept the consequences is often the mark of a genuine confession.
- **Alter** your behavior (Eph. 4:22-32)
 - Repentance is an implicit promise—words are tied to future actions.
- **Ask** for forgiveness (Lk. 17:3)
 - This gives the person an opportunity to respond and express forgiveness.
- **Allow** time for healing (Prov. 12:18)

6