



Gospel-Centered Life Class

Session VI: Conflict

Bible Conversation

Galatians 2:11-14

The Gospel Helps Us Fight Fairly

Your behavior probably falls into one of two categories. Some people are _____. They like to be on the offensive. They place a high value on _____, so it matters greatly to them who is right and who is wrong.

On the other end of the spectrum are _____. People with this tendency often find themselves on the defensive. They tend to avoid or ignore conflict and, when pressed into an argument, they respond in sullen silence or apathetic passivity.

The fact that we _____ into these responses is a clue that they may not be biblical. God is calling us beyond the natural to the _____, a reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Note these aspects of Paul's actions from Galatians 2:11-14:

1. Paul approached Peter _____. He didn't avoid Peter, gossip about him, or try to bully him. He confronted him, going directly to the person with whom he had the conflict.
2. Paul's motivation was not _____ or _____ but in the defense of the gospel.
3. Paul presented the issue _____ and invited a _____ from Peter.

The gospel provides the pattern of biblical conflict resolution. We have a proper motivation (_____), confidence (_____), and means for resolving conflict (_____ and _____).

Exercise: Gospel-Centered Conflict Resolution

The chart below outlines the differences between attacking and withdrawing and contrasts them with a gospel-centered approach to conflict. Ordinary conflict that has no direct link to defending the gospel like we find in Galatians 2 are gospel issues as we look at the first column to the right, “ASPECT”. Each of these aspects are gospel issues and are part of our everyday conflicts.

ASPECT	ATTACKING	WITHDRAWING	GOSPEL
HEART FOUNDATION	Self-righteousness	Insecurity	Repentance, forgiveness
POWER SOURCE	Flesh, pride	Flesh, fear	The Holy Spirit
COMMITMENT	To be right	To avoid conflict	To understand & engage
DIRECTION	To argue or subdue	To deny or appease	To convey & invite
FEELING	Life is safe	Life is less painful	Life is challenging
GOAL	Self-protection	“Peace”	God’s glory, their good
RESULT	Hurt, divisiveness	Bitterness, separation	Healing, reconciliation