

Behaving In Conflict

James 1: 19-27

Introduction

Conflict is a reality in this world. In the secular world and in the ministry world conflict is inevitable. Those people that do not deal with conflict well in church usually move from church to church.

3 ways we deal with conflict

1. We avoid it and hoard it.
2. We confront it and inflame it.
3. We address it and fix it.

James gives us the tools to behave in a world with potential conflict.

Conflict is inevitable in marriage.

Conflict is inevitable in family.

Conflict is inevitable in parenting.

Conflict is inevitable in the workplace.

Conflict is inevitable in ministry.

Christian maturity is judged by how you respond in conflict and trial.

Christian maturity is judged not by what you do to others but by what you do when others abuse you unjustly.

Verse 19a Listen Up

1. Communicating in conflict is just as much about listening as talking.
2. Many times I do all the talking and not enough listening.
3. Many times we hear but we don't listen.
4. The number 1 cause of marital dysfunction is poor communication.
5. The spouse hears but does not listen to what is being communicated.
6. A good listener is a good communicator.
7. In marriage, parenting, ministry, workplace: listen and hear.
8. Jesus heard us Exodus 3:9/ Psalm 34:6 – This poor man cried and the Lord heard him.
9. Jesus listens when we call.

Verse 19b Shut Up

1. Slow to speak.
2. I talk too much.
3. When we yell all the time the yelling just becomes noise.
4. Proverbs 10: 19 “In the multitude of words their wanteth not sin but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”
5. We have to use wisdom with our words when communicating in conflict.
6. We must use words that heal and resolve conflict and not words that inflame it.
7. Sometimes not answering is the best answer.
8. Jesus said very little during his passion. He spoke not a word.
9. Jesus always measured his words.

Verse 19c -20 Calm Down

1. Be slow to wrath.
2. Don't have a short fuse.
3. Losing your temper does not accomplish anything Godly.
4. The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
5. You cannot be an effective Christians losing your temper.
6. Emotions don't think.
7. If you lose your cool you lose your influence.
8. One tantrum can destroy a lifetime of work.
9. You lose respect when you have a short fuse.
10. What if Jesus had a short fuse.
11. Jesus got angry but righteous anger.
12. Notice – James says you will get angry but you need to be slow to anger.
13. A calm temperament is Christ-like and righteous.
14. Ask for God to help you with that.

Verses 21 Shakedown

1. A shakedown is when you search something or do a thorough test to remove problems or defects.
2. James calls for a shakedown of your life.
3. Eliminate filthiness = foul, dirty and nasty.
4. Eliminate Superfluity of Naughtiness = surplus of evil, depravity and wickedness.
5. Purge your life of traits that are not like Jesus.
6. Lay apart these things.
7. But receive the engrafted word of God.
8. Jesus let nothing interfere with the purpose of His ministry.

Verses 22-25 Get Real

1. Don't be a hearer but a doer.
2. Look into the perfect law of liberty.
3. Let the Word change you by being real and obeying the word of God.
4. Jesus came and followed the will of His father and nothing else.

Verses 26-29 Love Loud

1. True religion undefiled.
2. Managing your mouth.
3. Loving the orphan and widow.
4. True Christian love with their words.
5. True Christians love by their deeds.
6. When we love loud we live true.
7. Everything Jesus said and everything he did was for love.

Conclusion

1. Sometimes we need to simply listen.
2. Sometimes we need to limit our words.
3. We need to work to stay calm in daily conflict.
4. We need to be real.
5. We need to love loudly.

Challenge

1. Pray for wisdom when in conflict.
2. Let the Word of God engraft in you.
3. Approach conflict like Jesus.