

GOD-CENTERED

Part 1 of RELATIONSHIP RESET. James 3:17.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. November 6, 2022.

I'M EMBARRASSED TO TELL ...

Years ago, I was in a pastors' meeting ...

WHEN BEING RIGHT IS WRONG

Relationship principle #2: It's usually best to avoid arguments.

James 3:17-18 (NLT) But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also **peace loving**, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

- Most of the time, proving we are right, is the wrong thing to do.

God's relationship wisdom is peaceable or peace-loving.

"Wise people are peacemakers, not troublemakers. Wise people don't carry a chip on their shoulder. They're not always looking for a fight. And they don't intentionally antagonize other people" (Rick Warren, How To Be Wise in Relationships <https://pastorrick.com/how-to-be-wise-in-relationships>).

- Road rage on I-94.

Proverbs 14:29 (NLT) People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness.

STEPS TO PRACTICAL PEACE MAKING

Value relationships over being right.

Proverbs 17:14 (NLT) Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before a dispute breaks out.

Start with the end in mind.

Proverbs 17:9-10 (NLT) Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

Choose words that build relationships.

James 3:5-6 (NLT) ... a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

- Choose words that build rather than break, that heal rather than hurt, that bless rather than curse, that bring life rather than death.

Proverbs 12:18 (ESV) There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

"A good apology is like antibiotic, a bad apology is like rubbing salt in the wound" (The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch, 2008).

Colossians 4:6 (ESV) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- Following God's relationship wisdom leads us to avoid:
 - Comparisons: *why can't you be more like X?*
 - Condemnation: *you are a useless waste of space.*
 - Contradictions: *no, dear, that's not what happened.*
- Choose words carefully or say nothing at all. So much is at stake:

Galatians 5:15 (ESV) But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Before doing or saying anything, pray.

- Prayer invites God into the situation.
- The Lord's Prayer is a step-by-step guide to follow:
 - *God, help me honor you rather than embarrass you:* Matthew 6:9 - Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
 - *God, I want your righteous will to be done, not my sinful will:* Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 - *God help me freely forgive my friend as you have forgiven me:* Matthew 6:12 ... forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 - *God, don't let the devil get a foothold in my friendships:* Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- Share one thing that has helped you repair a broken relationship.

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- What do you believe motivated God to make peace with us? What Bible passages support your answer?
- Discuss the step(s) to practical peace-making that most helped you.

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- Is there a broken relationship that you would like the group to pray with you about? Share the details. Pray to God together, and also ask for the group's advice.
- Is there a conflict that has left you broken or scarred? Ask the group to pray for healing. Ask them if there is a Bible verse that would help with your healing.

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, every relationship comes with the risk of being hurt. I know that I have hurt people in my life. I confess that I have created conflict, and been argumentative, and said and done things that burned rather than built bridges. Please forgive me. There have also been people who hurt me. I forgive them. Please heal my broken heart and assure me of your faithful, everlasting love that is better than life. Thank you for being my good Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- <https://stepstopeace.org>
- www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/the-power-of-words
- pastorrick.com/how-to-be-wise-in-relationships
- pastorrick.com/how-to-restore-a-relationship