

## Overview & Setup

- W1: Made for relationship
- W2: Trust
- W3: Communication
- W4: Boundaries
- W5: Conflict Resolution

*God pursued us in love even when we were at our worst and His enemies. Because He loved us first, we are called to love and respond differently in conflict.*

- 1 John 4:9-11

## Questions to Reflect on and Journey Through Today

- What expectations should we have regarding conflict in a fallen world?
- As believers, who are we called to be in the midst of conflict?
- What does Scripture teach about different types of conflict and how we are to respond?

## 1<sup>ST</sup>: HAVE THE RIGHT EXPECTATIONS:

- We live in a fallen world, and even as believers we will experience conflict.
- We are in a spiritual battle, not against flesh and blood. *Ephesians 6:12*
- There is a war within us as the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict. *Galatians 5:17*
- Conflict has always existed among God's people, including within the church. *1 Corinthians*

## 2<sup>ND</sup>: CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO GROW AND RESPOND DIFFERENTLY:

- As we grow in Christ, we are called to respond differently.
- Even in the midst of conflict, mistreatment, and false accusations, we see a Christlike example.
- **1 Corinthians 4:11-13, 16** (We bless those who curse us)
- As we remain in Christ and are secure in Him, we respond differently.
- We respond with kindness, patience, and a heart for peace.

### **Matthew 5:9**

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

### **Proverbs 15:1**

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

### **Colossians 3:12-14**

We clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and above all love.

## 3<sup>RD</sup>: KNOW THE WORD AND WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT CONFLICT:

### PERSONAL CONFLICT:

- We seek reconciliation quickly. *Matthew 5:23–24*
- We do not allow anger to linger and turn into sin. *Ephesians 4:26*
- We guard our hearts against bitterness that can grow and affect many. *Hebrews 12:15*

### CONFLICT WITH OTHERS:

- We carefully examine situations, especially when we do not have all the facts.
- *Proverbs 18:17* reminds us to hear the full story.
- *Proverbs 26:17* warns us not to insert ourselves into conflicts that are not ours.

### CONFLICT WITHIN THE CHURCH:

- We do not avoid conflict but lovingly go to the person.
- *Matthew 18:15–17* outlines a clear and gracious process for restoration

### WE ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO GOSSIP OR SLANDER:

- We put away unkind and destructive speech. *1 Peter 2*
- Our words have the power to bring life or death. *Proverbs 18:21*

### LEGAL AND SERIOUS MATTERS:

- In conflicts involving legal or serious wrongdoing, we seek accountability and involve proper authorities.
- We do this with wisdom, truth, and the full story.
- *Romans 13:1* reminds us that authority is established by God.

### Matters of Opinion

- We do not divide over disputable matters.
- *Romans 14:20* calls us to protect unity and not tear down the work of God over opinions.

### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- We can forgive even when reconciliation does not happen.
- We do our part, even if the relationship remains broken.

## THE GOSPEL

- Jesus' response in conflict was forgiveness, but it has to be received
- *Colossians 1:21–22*

