

FRIDAY — Serve: Christ-Centered Ways to Resolve Conflict

This day completes our week's study on serving as outlined in the Missional Membership manual. We end our study today with the understanding that conflicts and quarrels will arise while serving others but there is a biblical way of dealing with conflict. Today's study shares how we are to resolve conflicts that occur.

If you've been following along in this study, you are doing a great job as you just completed the Bible study portion of serving God. But you are not done just yet. Be certain to complete the response question after you answer the Bible study questions below. Then, continue to learn and commit to memory CedarCreek's mission statement. Continue to be a disciple with a servant's heart.

The Response Questions for Serving Jesus are on pages 12 and 13. You will need to answer these questions before completing the Commitment portion of the Missional Membership Process.

READ and THINK ... Find the Answers in the Bible

1. 2 Timothy 2:23-24 points out that, unfortunately, quarreling can happen among members of the church. How would you put into your own words what our attitude and response should be?

2 Timothy 2:23-24 (New Living Translation)

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone.

Answer:

2. Put in your own words the procedure Jesus outlines for conflict resolution in Matthew 18:15-17. (See also Proverbs 16:28, Romans 16:17, and James 4:1-3)

Matthew 18:15-17 (New Living Translation)

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. If the church decides you are right, but the other person won't accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

Answer:

3. What is the issue these verses have in common?

Proverbs 16:28 (New Living Translation)

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

Romans 16:17 (New Living Translation)

And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things that are contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.

James 4:1-3 (New Living Translation)

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? ²You want what you don't have so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. ³And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Answer:

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

Ask God to help you continue to deny yourself and any self-seeking motives while putting forth your effort to serve. And if conflict occurs, that you will choose to speak the truth in love and wait patiently for a Christ-Centered response.

Weekend Updates!

- **Apprentice Conference Series:** Is your life reflective of the spirit of Jesus Christ - that is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? If not, are you interested in becoming that type of person? If so, The Apprentice Conference Series can help. On Thursday, March 1st from 6:30-9pm and Friday, March 2nd, 9-3pm at the Perrysburg Campus nationally acclaimed Apprentice Series authors, Jimmy Taylor and James Smith are flying to Toledo to teach us how to develop Christ-Centered character, see God and find balance in our daily life, develop spiritual practices and build community! The cost is only \$20.00 for both days and \$10.00 for one and includes the book and lunch (if you attend Friday). Childcare is available on Thursday only. Register at www.cedarcreek.tv under the “get connected” tab.
- **Financial Peace University:** The Financial Peace University deadline is extended until Friday, January 20th and is now only \$80.00. The 13-week classes begin on Monday, January 23rd at the Whitehouse and West Toledo campus and Wednesday beginning January 25th at the Perrysburg and South Toledo Campus at 7pm. Childcare is available for a nominal fee. Register online at cedarcreek.tv under the Get Connected tab or at any Welcome Center.
- **Provide and Protect:** Once you get your budget organized, then what? What happens if your health fails, you pass away or you are otherwise unable to provide for your family? The **Perrysburg Campus** will host a seminar entitled "Provide and Protect," this Sunday, Jan 22 from 10:45am-12:15pm to give you the tools necessary to set your family up for success. A financial advisor and attorney will be present to answer your questions. Your only cost is the Provide and Protect book that you can pick up at The Source bookstore before the seminar begins. Register now at **CedarCreek.tv** under the "Get Connected" tab.
- **Interested in getting Baptized:** Baptisms will be held at New Community on Sunday, January 29th at 6pm at the South Toledo Campus. Attend one of the following Baptism classes: Saturday, Jan 14 and 21 at 5:15pm, and Sunday, Jan 15 at 10:45am, and Sunday, Jan 29 at 4pm at the South Toledo Campus ONLY.

Personal Response Serving Others and Connected in the Community:

RESPOND: Take the time to answer these questions in response to what you've learned about serving Jesus.

Serving Others:

1. What factors or attitudes have ever hindered your involvement at CedarCreek? Have you pushed through the difficulties or are there some things that you still need to work through? How will you work through them in order to get to a place where you can serve in a manner that honors God?
2. Are you responsibly using your spiritual gifts in a place within the church in a manner that maximizes the gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit?

Yes
 No

If yes, in what area? If no, is there a specific reason? Do you intend to pursue some form of service in the near future? In what area?

Connected in Community:

1. Consistent with God's call to commitment and community within a local church body, do you regularly participate in the corporate gatherings of CedarCreek Church (weekend services as well as special New Community and Baptism services)?

Yes
 No

If not, is there a specific reason?

2. Are you connected to a Life Group or Ministry Team here at CedarCreek for the purpose of growth, loving support, accountability, and service?

Yes
 No

If not, please explain why.

**Personal Response Serving Others and
Connected in the Community:**

3. Describe the quality of your Life Group life or Ministry Team experience and how it is impacting your spiritual growth.

Relational breakdowns are usually complex matters. We recognize and respect that. At the same time, missional members should be willing to engage in the strenuous process of conflict resolution. They should display humble hearts, a willingness to examine and address personal issues that may have contributed to the conflict and openness to receiving counsel where appropriate.

4. As far as it is up to you, are you committed to pursuing the Biblical pattern of conflict resolution as described in Matthew 18:15-17 to rectify any current or future relational conflicts?

Yes

No

If not, please explain.

5. Do you have any relationships anywhere, such as within the church, at work, or at home, that are dishonoring to God (i.e., broken or impure relationships)?

Yes

No

If so, please describe the problem.

6. Are you willing to accept reproof and correction from others regarding any area of your life that is not God-honoring?

Yes

No

If not, please explain any hesitation you may have.

What We Believe

The following pages contain our Statement of Faith which summarizes our beliefs as a church. Do not try to hurry through these pages, but read them slowly and thoughtfully. Ask yourself throughout, "What difference does this truth make in my life? If I didn't know or believe this, would it matter?"

The Bible

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, comprised of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that Scripture in its entirety originated with God and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men. Scripture at one and the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts. They are the unique, full, and final authority on all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. 2 Timothy 3:16

God

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity, and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning, God created the world out of nothing and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom, and goodness. By His providence, He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes. Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 1:34-35

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the eternal second person of the Trinity. We believe in his deity and in His miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. John 1:1-5

The Holy Spirit

As believers submit to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, they are enabled to live a life of holiness and obedience. The Holy Spirit was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them. At the point of salvation, he permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, comfort, strength, and wisdom. He uniquely endows each believer with spiritual gifts for the building up of the church. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scriptures. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father. John 16:5-15.

Salvation

The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into fellowship with Him. Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied

choosing to go his independent way, and so was alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are in need of the saving grace of God.

The salvation of mankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness, and must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith. Salvation is available to all, but it must be received to become a child of God (John 1:12). When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in His Word that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation. John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Philippians 1:6

Human Destiny

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation. God's judgment will reveal His justice in consigning them to perpetuate in eternal retribution for their own rejection of God. Believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life. Romans 6:23

The Church

The result of being united with Jesus Christ is that all believers become positional members of his body, the Church. There is one true universal Church, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scriptures command believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, and the teaching of the Word of God. The Scriptures command believers to devote themselves to the observance of Baptism and Communion as the sacramental ordinances established by Jesus Christ. We believe that Baptism by immersion, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is commanded by God; that it is subsequent to conversion, that it is not a saving ordinance, but an obedient outward expression of an inward work of the Spirit of God (Matthew 3:13-17).

We believe that Communion is a symbol of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, representing the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, and a looking forward to the second coming of Christ to receive His own (1 Corinthians 11:23-24). The Scriptures also command believers to devote themselves to fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. Every member of Christ's body should share their Christian witness with others. Acts 2:42

Faith and Practice

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.

We believe the Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches. All members shall refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in the Statement of Faith in such a way as to cause dissension.

Living It Out: January 2012

Colossians 2:6-7 (New Living Translation)

⁶And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Living It Out

It is the dream of CedarCreek that everyone who calls this their church home will be reading and studying the same topics, both individually and in groups. Each week, join with thousands of others at CedarCreek Church in applying God's Word, the Bible, into your daily life. Our hope is that while we learn and grow together, as individuals and as a church, we will collectively live out the weekend message.

Living It Out resources, such as the Daily Bible Study, Daily Bible Reading Plan, Discussion Questions and Scripture Memory Verses, are designed to help us embrace a missional mindset...a mindset that compels us to love Jesus, serve others and tell the world about Christ.

Living It Out: Daily Bible Study—Daily Bible study activities to reflect on the weekend message

Living It Out: Daily Bible Reading Plan—Read through the Bible in a year—Old and New Testament will alternate month to month

Living It Out: Discussion Questions...Weekly questions to discuss with others

Living It Out: Scripture Memory...Memorize one Bible verse per month

All of these resources are also available electronically at www.livingitout.tv, where you can subscribe to have any or all of them emailed to you as they are updated.

We Want Your Feedback!

Tell us about any questions or comments you have about this week's Living It Out: Daily Bible Study. Forward them to dianap@cedarcreek.tv.

<p>CedarCreek Church 29129 Lime City Road Perrysburg, Oh 43551 Phone: 419.661.8661 Fax: 419.661.8665</p> <p>www.cedarcreek.tv www.livingitout.tv</p>	<p>RESOURCES: <i>CedarCreek's Missional Membership Manual</i></p>	<p>Living It Out: Daily Bible Reading Plan scriptures are listed for each day. By completing each of the daily readings, you will read the entire Bible in one year. These readings are separate from the Daily Bible Study.</p>	<p><i>This week's Living It Out: Daily Bible Study written and organized by:</i></p> <p><i>Barb Roose Diana Patton</i></p>
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