

RESOLVING EVERYDAY CONFLICT

Week 3 | Taking Higher
Ground: Glorify God

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “GLORIFY” GOD? (1 COR. 10:31)

- Generally: “Feeling, thinking and acting in ways that reflect his greatness, that make much of God, that give evidence of the supreme greatness of all his attributes and the all-satisfying beauty of his manifold perfections.” – Piper
- In 1 Cor 10:31 specifically: Obeying and imitating God by loving others, showing mercy, laying down “rights,” forgiving and loving sacrificially.

THE HORIZONTAL

- “I am so hurt”
- “It’s their fault”
- “How should act towards them moving forward?”
- “I can’t believe they would think or say that about me”
- “I see how it is”

THE VERTICAL

- “How can I please and honor God in my pain?”
- “How would God have me address this conflict?”
- “How can I best live out the Gospel in response to this offense?”

DISCUSS

- **Jim comes home from work. He seems exhausted and distracted. Susan's had a hard day herself; she got home late from work, realized that she had forgotten to plan for dinner, and now Jim sticks his head into the kitchen wondering how much longer dinner will be. At this pivotal moment: 1) What *earnest* responses would NOT glorify God and would likely start a brush fire and 2) What *earnest* responses WOULD glorify God and extinguish any potential flames? Remember the vertical vs horizontal.**

THE GOSPEL THAT SAVES US ALSO INFORMS OUR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Christians should have the greatest capacity to forgive and seek reconciliation because of the forgiveness and reconciliation that they have received.
 - Col. 1:21-22
 - Col 3:12-13
 - 2 Cor. 5:14-17

MAKING THE GOSPEL CONCRETE IN ALL OF LIFE

When...	In Myself...	But in Christ...
I'm fearful of the future	Consumed by worry, I assume the worst and lose hope (Matt. 6:31-32)	Because God did not spare his son, I can trust that he walks with me and cares for me (Rom. 8:32)
I've fallen into sin	I cover it up, hide it, minimize it or find someone to blame (Gen. 3:7-9)	Because God delights to forgive, I can freely confess my sins to him and others (Prov. 28:13)
Things are going well	I take pride in my achievements (and look down on lesser mortals) (Jer. 9:23-24)	Because in Christ, all good gifts are from God, I humbly thank him and gladly share the blessing (1 Cor. 4:7)
Someone wrongs me	I'm bitter or angry. I fight for my rights. Icy silence/relational bailing. Payback. (Jas. 4:1-2)	Because I've been forgiven, I can forgive and show mercy and compassion to others (Eph. 4:32)

DISCUSS

- **The Gospel provides us a foundation upon which to forgive and seek reconciliation. What would change about the way you currently seek reconciliation if you did **NOT** use the Gospel as a foundation to do so?**

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT: MATT 18:21-33

- Scene 1
 - 10,000 talents owed
 - Mercy asked for by servant
 - Mercy granted by king
- Scene 2
 - 100 denarii owed
 - Mercy asked for by second man
 - Mercy denied by servant

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT: MATT 18:21-33

- Scene 3
 - Jesus's conclusion
 - King exercises justice on servant
 - “Should you not have had mercy?”
- Jesus's point: The Gospel—understood, appreciated and embedded—overflows all and transforms all. Because I've been forgiven extravagantly, I can forgive extravagantly myself.

DISCUSS

- **In what ways is peacemaking—particularly forgiveness and reconciliation—like canceling a debt? How does this help us understand how reconciliation differs from saying “I’m sorry?”**