

Andrew's Live Bible Study Notes – 9/18/2018

Guest: Carrie Pickett

Having a Godly Response to Difficult Situations and People Around You

Matthew 5:43-48 (NASB 1995) "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven . . . For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

You must understand that you are working and living alongside the *lost* and those that have come from being *lost* into various levels of transformation, revelation, and application!

John Maxwell identifies five common sources of conflict and difficulties with people:

- **Personality and relationship clashes**
- **Unspoken and unmet expectations**
- **Insecurity and identity issues**
- **Unresolved conflict from past wounds**
- **Independent attitudes and inflexible perspectives**

(The "Million Leaders Mandate" Book 3 pg. 21)

Five Options When Faced with Conflict (p. 22)

1. I'll get them! (Retaliation)
2. I'll get out! (Escape and avoidance)
3. I'll give in! (Surrender)
4. I'll go half! (Compromise)
5. I'll deal with it! (Address the issue)

Steps Toward Effective Confrontation

1. Pray - Establish your heart to go the way of the Spirit and not the flesh.

Don't let your emotions dictate your actions. Don't delay too long as a situation could become too big.

2. Don't wait for another person to take the first step.

Take leadership in the situation. It's not about being right or wrong but taking a biblical stand to deal with offense quickly.

3. Start with positive words

Give sincere encouragement and words that build up. Don't fake this or just make something up. After someone sees your heart, then ask them if you can address something that might be challenging for them to hear.

4. Don't start condemning and accusing them.

Address your heart and feelings and that you are having an issue and need resolution. Be honest in sharing your struggles with the issue and your desire to see it resolved.

5. Bring up the issue or situation and share your confusion or trouble with what has happened.

Many times, a meeting reveals that the issue was just a misunderstanding, not a malicious attack. Aim to clarify both sides of the situation. Don't assume that they intentionally hurt you. Sometimes it's just ignorance and carelessness.

6. Don't talk the whole time. Listen to their side.

If you are talking or accusing for the whole conversation, you will never get the clarification that you need or see things from their perspective.

7. Forgiveness and resolution should be the goal of the conversation.

Remember that, no matter the situation, the goal is to let Christ bring healing and forgiveness. Many times, even though you may not have done any wrong, be sensitive to initiate asking for forgiveness. Connect the situation to the Word and to who both of you are in Christ. Take the higher ground.

8. Understand that compromise can be a healthy option. Each person can possess his or her own perspectives and opinions. However, compromise should not extend into biblical principles or values.

If the Bible is clear, then do not compromise your stand or opinion just to make someone feel good.

9. Pray again and tell them how much you do love them. End again in encouragement. A person can walk away from a tough and challenging conversation but still feel your love for them and be strengthened in the fact that they are deeply loved by God.

The book of Philemon gives a great example of how Paul addressed a situation with another believer and the process he took in communication.

Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way."

1. COMPARISON

John 21:21-22 (NASB 1977) "Peter therefore seeing him [John] said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him: 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!'" [brackets mine]

2. COMPENSATION

Psalm 37:1-8 (NASB 1995) "Do not fret . . . be not envious . . . trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him and He will do it. . . . Rest in the LORD . . . Do not fret . . . Cease from anger."

3. COMPETITION

Galatians 6:4-5 (NASB 1977) "But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one shall bear his own load."

4. COMPULSION

1 Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

5. CONDEMNATION

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 "But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come from God."

6. CONTROL

Jeremiah 29:11-13 "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.'"

"We must never put our emotional health in the hands of someone else" – John C. Maxwell