

Illogical Love: Part 4- Fight with Honor

James 4:1-2;7, Romans 12:10, Proverbs 15:1a, Proverbs 25:21-22

I. ME (Intro/Review)

- A. Welcome/Internet
- B. Part 4 of 6
- C. Quality of our life is determined by the quality of our relationships
 - 1. Choosing to love
 - 2. Submit in every relationship
 - 3. Submission- Willingly giving all of me for what benefits you the most
 - 4. Looking for overarching themes to help us have healthy relationships
 - a. Marriage is a submission competition
 - b. Happy families accept the mission of submission.
- D. The hardest and most common thing to deal with in relationships is conflict.
- E. To give us a good starting point in understanding how conflict works let's play a game.
 - 1. Whisper Challenge.**
- F. That's often what it's like to try to deal with people you are in conflict with isn't it?
 - 1. Trying so hard to be understood but they aren't listening.
 - 2. Assuming someone is saying or meaning one thing and then getting in a fight over the misunderstanding.
- G. So frustrating.
 - 1. Liz and I having a fight that neither of us want to be having but can't stop it.

II. WE

- A. No matter what relationship we're talking about there's always going to be some type of conflict.
 - 1. Humans just tend to start to disagree or irritate or annoy or straight up fight.
- B. Ever have those days/weeks were you and your spouse or roommates just can't seem to get along?
 - 1. Or that person/neighbor/coworker/sibling that no matter what they do just really get under your skin?
 - 2. How many of you are in conflict right now?
 - 3. What's that about?
 - 4. Why do we end up in conflict in so many of our relationships?
 - 5. It's obviously not you... so what's wrong with all of them?
 - 6. And what can we do about it?
- C. James has the answer (**James 4:1-2**)
 - 1. Jesus' brother... thought he was crazy
 - 2. Leader of the early church
 - 3. Explaining to Christians what it means to live as followers of Jesus.
 - 4. Writing to Xians who are having conflicts with each other.
- D. So why do we have all of this animosity in our relationships?
 - 1. The answer is simple but the solution, as we've seen in our other talks, is pretty illogical.
 - 2. It doesn't always make sense but it works b/c Jesus love is illogical.

III. GOD

A. V. 1- What's the cause of conflict?

1. We want. What do we want?
2. Desires- Pleasure
 - a. Not just sexual.
 - b. Pleasure- comfort, amusement/entertainment, an easy life, luxury.
3. Often pleasure is our main goal in life.
 - a. Work for money to spend on... pleasure
 - b. Go into massive debt to have pleasure.
4. And if pleasure is your goal, conflict will be your constant companion.
 - a. If your motivation in life is comfort, entertainment, an easy life... you will actually never have those things b/c you'll be fighting so hard to get and keep them.
5. It's what James says next

B. V. 2a- You want stuff so bad that you kill for it.

1. Hold on! I've never killed anyone.
2. No you've never murdered... but you have killed/destroyed
3. Have you ever wanted something so bad that you destroyed a relationship?
4. Ever seen someone WANT a marriage to death?
 - a. They aren't getting what they want out of the relationship and keep pushing and pushing and pushing until the relationship is dead.
5. "You Covet"... Relentlessly pursue.
 - a. Ever see someone destroy their lives b/c of their constant pursuit of pleasure?

6. Do you know who has the most power to create conflict and kill your relationships and possibly destroy your life? YOU
 - a. **Every regret begins with... I WANT.**

7. And when you are constantly looking to get what YOU WANT, other people will get in the way... b/c they want too!
 - a. **So you quarrel and fight** (WAR)

8. You let these passions, desires push you far enough and you will end up murdering.

9. **You not getting what you want is the source of most of your conflicts.**
 - a. Not talking about extreme situations... abuse, etc.

10. **Next fight... "You know what the problem is?!" "I'm not getting my way!"**

C. V. 2b-3

1. You don't have what you want b/c you don't ask God.
 - a. You're fighting so hard to get what you want on your own terms.
 - b. Trying to take care of things on your own.
 - c. B/c "If I don't, who will?"
2. And when you do ask God, you ask (literal word) badly/wrongly.
 - a. Your prayers are still about you getting what you want.
 - b. They are selfish prayers.
 - c. If God answered every one of your prayers yes, would anyone else's life be better?

- D. So think about your recent conflicts or the biggest conflict in your life...

1. Did they involve someone wanting what they wanted and not being able to get it?
2. Or wanting what they wanted and putting that above everything else?
3. Comfort, preferences (church fights), stuff, entertainment, respect?
- 4. Constantly wanting your way will constantly kill your relationships.**
5. This is not some big secret.
 - a. We all really already knew this stuff. Just maybe haven't thought of it in these terms.
 - b. So why don't we do something about it?
6. Or better, what do we do about it?
 - a. Do we just give up, get walked all over, never get what we want... kinda. Well that sucks.
 - b. How does that help us enjoy relationships and enjoy the full life Jesus promises?
 - c. The answer isn't logical but it's still true.

E. James 4:7

- 1. Submit to God.**
 - a. Not scared, forced obedience.
 - b. Giving all that you are for what benefits God the most.
2. You are not just constantly giving in to the whims of others.
3. You are actually submitting to God and trusting him to take care of you
4. Submitting your hopes, dreams, and desires to what pleases the Lord.
 - a. B/c you trust that He loves you and is for you.
 - b. God doesn't want something from you... he wants something for you... your best life now and true life with Him for eternity.
 - c. But to receive it, you have to trust Him.

5. And trusting him means you don't have to fight for yourself.
 - a. You can start caring for others b/c you know God is caring for you.
- F. So does it mean being misused and taken advantage of? Sometimes.
 1. But it doesn't matter. B/c you know God is for you so you are free to be for them.
 2. You are free from fighting for your way and are able to enjoy being used for His way.
- 3. Trusting that God is for you creates peace with yourself and others.**
4. So if we trust God what do we do to end conflict and show love?
 - a. Especially if the other person is pushing the fight?
- G. **Romans 12:10**- "Try to be the first one to show honor."
 1. You want to end and resolve conflict? You want to heal relationships?
 2. Make it your mission to outdo the other in showing honor- dignity, esteem, praise, recognition, deference.
 - a. Choosing to see them as more important than you.
 - b. Their needs, preferences, desires are more important than yours.
 - c. Understanding their point of view is more important than them understanding yours.**
 3. When you place honor above getting your way... what's left to fight about?

4. Extinguish conflict with honor.

5. It's not being a timid push over.
 - a. Showing honor takes strength... it's why it's so hard to do.
 - b. Much much easier to just give in to anger and lash out.
 - c. Has that ever helped resolve conflict or really get you what you want?
 - d. Showing honor is a sign of strength and silences those with who you are in conflict.

6. EXAMPLES...

a. Proverbs 15:1a

b. Proverbs 25:21-22

7. Not doing it b/c you have to... but b/c you trust that you don't have to fight for your rights... you don't have to fight for what you want... you don't have to fight to get your way.
8. You trust that God wants the best for you and is taking care of you while you look out for others.
9. **Example:** Coast Guard Rescue Diver (**Picture of diver holding line from helicopter while holding onto survivor**)- They trust that they are being taken care of while they take care of others.
 - a. It's that trust that makes them strong.

10. When you trust that God is for you, you can enjoy being for others.
 - a. And rely on His strength.
11. Is it logical to get what you want by giving up trying to get what you want? Of course not... but that's how it works.

12. It's illogical but it's true.

IV. YOU

- A. Next time you find yourself in conflict with someone else... Stop and ask yourself... "Am I upset b/c I'm not getting what I want?"
 1. Mad b/c that chore is taking up the time you want to do something else?
 2. Angry b/c you want the promotion so you can have more income?
 3. Irate b/c they cut you off and now you will be .15 seconds later?
 4. Furious b/c you aren't getting the respect/attention/treatment you deserve?
- B. What happened when Jesus didn't get the respect He deserved? When instead of bowing down and worshipping they beat him and crucified him?
 1. "Father forgive them."
 2. Died to make it happen.
- C. Ask, "Am I not getting what I want?" and then "How can I show the most honor to this person?"
 1. Is it apologizing?
 2. Is it submitting my time and energy for them?
 3. Is it being **FOR** them (their promotion/title/influence) b/c you trust that God is **FOR** you?

D. Extinguish conflict with honor.

V. WE

- A. Married: What would it be like to be trying to outdo each other by showing honor?
- B. Siblings/Parents?
- C. Work?
- D. Neighbors?
- E. OUR COUNTRY?