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Reconcilable Differences

Ephesians 4:1-6

Three questions that will help us navigate our relationships:

Am I _____ what I have received?

Am I _____ whatever I can?

Am I _____ what matters the most?

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called –

⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

John 17:20-23

²⁰My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

When seeking to resolve conflict:

▪ **Assume the best until you have the facts to show otherwise.**
Love...always protects, always trusts, always hopes.
(1 Corinthians 13:6)

▪ **Acknowledge your personal responsibility first.**

How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Mathew 7:4-5)

▪ **Avoid exaggerations.**

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Proverbs 12:18)

▪ **Attack the problem, not the person.**

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs... (Ephesians 4:29)

▪ **Affirm the relationship (end with a hug –verbal or physical).**

Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)

Spend some time each day reading, meditating on, studying, resting in and applying Ephesians 4:1-6. Here are some resources that may help:

<http://parkerhill.wordpress.com> – weekend follow-up questions for you and your small group

Life Lessons with Max Lucado - Ephesians (available at your local Christian bookstore or online book seller)

www.crosswalk.com

www.studylight.org