

Emotionally Healthy Relationships

Part 6-Learning to Handle Conflict

John 2:13-25, Daniel 1:8-17

Starting Point: True peace will never come by PRETENDING what is wrong is right.

Consider Jesus' Model of True Peacemaking...

1. Jesus brought DISRUPTION in order to bring true PEACE.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts He found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:13-15 NIV

2. Jesus did not avoid CONFLICT or appease people.

To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" John 2:16-18 NIV

3. Jesus did not ignore TENSIONS or differences.

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple He had spoken of was His body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John 2:19-22 NIV

Consider the example of Daniel...

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to

eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. Daniel 2:8-17 NIV

Key Point: Conflict is NORMAL, IMPORTANT, and NECESSARY if relationships are to enter their next level of growth and maturity.

Today, will you commit your relationships to God’s hands so you can see a victory in His power?