

Date: **August 18, 2024**
Series: **Conflict Resolution Series**
Title: **Fighting for Peace**
Text: **Acts 15**

The series thus far:

August 4	Freedom from Internal Discord Part 1
August 11	Freedom from Internal Discord Part 2
August 18	Fighting for Peace
August 25	Fruitful Communications
Sept. 1	Forgiveness Dynamics

Introduction:

Doctor James Dobson, from Focus on the Family, tells the story of a 3-year-old's tantrums.

- Everywhere they went if the boy did not get his way, he would throw himself down and have a fit.
- One day the parents were reading a paper and he wanted something and he wanted it right then.
- His parents continued reading so the boy went and grabbed the mother's arm and when she did not respond he again went into a tantrum on the floor.
- They continued to not respond; ignored it by reading a paper.
- The boy realizing that he did not have an audience for his behavior came to an awakening of thought.
- He realized he looked so silly and so he stopped.
- Dr. Dobson revealed that the three year old boy was him.

Acts 15 – A Topic of Importance and Disagreement

They discussed and disagreed and sought mediation

v2 – And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

They gathered and (debated) discussed. (A search, seeking, questioning)

v6-7 – The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and (spoke).

The people listened

v12 – And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened.

A Decision is made

v19 – *“Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God...”*

WHO IS YOUR FIGHT WITH?

Your Fight Is Not Against the Person in Front of You

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- Not against flesh and blood.
- It is about the strongholds in your life and in their lives.
- It is about the forces that would take you both away from the BEST results due to anger issues.

Your Fight Is One of the Mind and the Heart

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect

- Battle of the mind.
- Mind must be renewed.
- Then discernment happens.
- It will be good and acceptable.

DEFINE AND REFUSE TO FIGHT

Yelling?

Posturing?

Arguing?

Jibing banter?

Heated?

Disagreement?

Tough discussion?

Create discussions not arguments

Psalm 85:10

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Learn and Know Intensity Levels

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOU

Live as a person of peace

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Live at peace with everyone

Philippians 2:4

...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

- Choose the adjective you want to describe the room and pursue it.

Do what leads to peace

Romans 14:19

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Hebrews 12:14

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

- Learn to apologize
- Learn to lift the other up

BEHAVE YOURSELF

Do what is Right

Romans 12:17-18

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Put it to Rest

Ephesians 4:26

In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

- Apologize for your part that you did wrong
- Say I love you before you go to bed

Choose Your Words

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

DELETE THE FILE FOR YOUR SAKE AND FOR THEIR SAKE

Forgive Quickly

Colossians 3:12-15

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV

Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

No Drawing Lines

Leviticus 19:18

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 5:38

“You have heard that it was said, Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. “

OPEN YOUR EARS AND YOUR HEART

Listen With Your Ears

James 1:19-20

¹⁹ *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”*

Listen With Your Heart and To Their Heart

Psalms 61:1-2

¹ *Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; ² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,*

- The heart is hurting, the heart is threatened, the heart is vulnerable, the heart is crying out.
- We must listen to the heart's cry
- We must lean into the Rock that is higher than ourselves

Prayer