



“Never Give Up...On Relationships”

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-3

MAIN POINT: CHRISTIANS ARE NEVER TO GIVE UP ON RELATIONSHIPS.

I. Relational Conflict Will Happen

“The first is to marry only in the Lord....The second is not to expect too much from their partners, and to remember that marriage is, after all, the union of two sinners, and not of two angels....” (J.C. Ryle)

II. Relationships Can Be Reconciled

“If we are Christians, trusting fully in Jesus Christ for present and eternal salvation, we are ‘in the Lord’! We are vitally united to Him. His righteousness is put to our account. His divine strength and resources are put at our disposal to overcome sin and walk in newness of life by His power and grace. We who are proud and selfish can become humble and unselfish. We who desire to be served can become servants...[conflicts] can be solved...by the power of Jesus Christ in the believer, enabling him to have the mind of a servant.” (Wayne Mack)

III. Relational Help Occurs in the Church

Titus 3:3-7

Application questions:

- 1) Are you surprised by relational conflict? Why or why not?
- 2) What hope do Christians have for relationships to be reconciled?
- 3) What does it mean to “have the mind of Christ”? How can having the mind of Christ bring reconciliation to your relationships?
- 4) How is God calling you to help other church members reconcile their conflict?
- 5) Have you given up on a relationship in the church? If so, what is the Gospel calling you to do?
- 6) Suggestion: take time this week to read David Powlison’s article, “Getting to the Heart of Conflict: Anger Part 3”.