
Sermon Text Discussion 4/3017

“Conflict Resolution through the Lens of the Book of Proverbs” by Edgar Momoh

Overview

Conflict is inevitable in our lives. Although it has challenging aspects, conflict has potential for good. Conflict has been defined as being “incompatible, at odds, or variance with someone”. This includes incompatibilities in ideas, control, opinions, values, viewpoints, interests, character, beliefs, use of resources preferences, or desires. In understanding and responding properly to conflict we will examine:

- 1) Reality of Conflict
 - a. Inevitable in our lives
 - b. Even though it is often unwanted and challenging, it can be a source for good
- 2) Reactions to Conflict
 - a. Blaming others (Proverbs 21:2)
 - b. Anger (Proverbs 14:29)
 - c. Hatred (Proverbs 10:18; 24:17)
 - d. Gossip (Proverbs 26:20)
- 3) Responses to Conflict
 - a. Combine kindness and truth (Proverbs 3:3)
 - b. Restrain our tongues (Proverbs 10:19)

Quotations

“You have ill will for someone when you begin to find happiness in their unhappiness. When their failure brings you satisfaction. When they are put down by someone and you like it. When with a brother, sister, spouse, or colleague at work seems to have issues and you smile on the inside”

Tim Keller

“In my universe the whole population is me.”
Edgar Momoh

Understanding & Application

- 1.) What is your natural response when you encounter conflict?
- 2) Recount a time when the Lord used conflict in your life for good. What did you learn from this experience?
- 3) Why is blaming others and anger so destructive when one faces conflict?
- 4) Read Proverbs 26:20 and 24:17. How would relationships be healthier and life be better if these were followed in your home, the church, or your school or work place?
- 5) Read Proverbs 3:3. What happens when kindness and truth are honored and expressed? Consider a conflictual situation you're in right now. How might God want you to be kind and truthful in it?
- 6) Believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18) What resources, hopes, and promises do we have as Christians to fulfill this ministry? What relationship or situation has the Lord made available for you to enter into this ministry of reconciliation?