

Redemptive Conflict Sermon Series

October 22, 2023

I. Conflict Myths

Myth #1: When conflict hurts, meaning all conflict is bad.

“Wounds from a friend are faithful...” (Proverbs 27:6)

Myth #2: All conflict is sinful.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Myth #3: Reconciliation = Forgiveness.

Restitution, something which was stolen or lost has been restored.

II. Reactions to Conflict

1. We react to conflict passively.
2. We react to conflict aggressively.
3. We react to conflict defensively.
4. We react to conflict evasively.

Myth #4: Peace is absent of conflict.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:2-10)

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matthew 4:11)

Reflection Questions:

1. When you think of conflict, what words come to your mind?
2. Which conflict myths do you gravitate to the most? Why?
3. What is your default reaction to conflict?
4. As Jesus has taken on the conflict of the world, how has He shaped your response to conflict?