

# Love Is...

## WORKING THROUGH CONFLICT

When I Know I am the One Who Is Right

2 John 5b-6 I ask that we love one another. <sup>6</sup> And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. NIV

### **There are times to bear with and overlook an offense.**

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. NIV84

Proverbs 19:11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense. NIV84

### **There are times to confront sin.**

Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." NIV84

Luke 17:3b [Jesus said,] "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him." NIV

### **There are times that you have a relationship with a person whom you would like to confront, but you may not get anywhere.**

Proverbs 26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself. <sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. NIV84

Proverbs 9:7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. NIV84

### **There are times when peacemaking is the best response.**

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. NIV84

### **Dream conflict:**

- You point out that they are wrong.
- They see they are wrong.
- They repent.
- You forgive them.
- They accept the forgiveness.
- You both move on and are a little wiser for the experience.

**Normal conflict:**

- You point out that they are wrong.
- They disagree.
- You point it out some more.
- They continue to disagree.
- You begin thinking that they are being a jerk.
- They begin thinking that you are being a jerk.
- Nothing gets settled
- You both leave the argument loving that person a little less than you started.

Proverbs 17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. NIV84

James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? NIV84

**Peacemaking Conflict:**

- You point out something you are frustrated with.
- They try to understand why you are frustrated and how they have contributed to that frustration.
- You try to understand why they don't completely understand or agree with you.
- During the discussion, each of you asks for forgiveness for the wrongs you identify.
- You both walk away understanding each other a little better and having a better grasp of how to be in relationship in the future.

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV

**A peacemaker shows...**

- Compassion: Understanding and sympathy
- Kindness: Friendly, generous, considerate
- Humility: Modest view of your importance
- Gentleness: Tender, mild-mannered
- Patience: Ability to tolerate without getting angry

**Takeaways:**