

Biblical Conflict Resolution, Part 7 I make time for time

I. Anger makes us too hasty.

- James 1:9-20; Proverbs 14:29
- There is type of hastiness that is motivated by anger. This anger is quick to speak, quick to pursue its own purposes, and therefore quick to folly. Sinful anger decapitates the whole process.

II. Foolishness makes us to hasty, longwinded, and fruitless.

- Ecclesiastes 5:1-3; 10:8-14
- Foolishness takes so many different forms. The last version was anger, and this one is quick-tongued loquaciousness.
- The fool is impulsive. He will stand before the Creator of the universe and prattle His foolishness. So many times in this passage we are admonished to limit our words. We're told to listen, were told not to be hasty in word or impulsive to bring up a matter to God, we're told to let our words be few, and to not use many words.
- Knowledge is having information. Understanding is comprehending that information. Wisdom is *using* that information in the best way possible. Conversely, foolishness is either living in ignorance and misunderstanding, or simply refusing to use the knowledge and understanding you've been given.

III. Sinful haste results in transgression and condemnation.

- Job 11:2; Proverbs 10:19
- The word "acquitted" in the Job passage is a judicial term. This means that a talkative man is going to be found guilty. And the answer that a multitude of words receives is the truthful condemnation they deserve.
- Transgressing God's law is sin. Sin always hurts. Sin always has consequences.
- Our foolish, angry, vain words are going to displease the Lord. That will hurt our fellowship with God, it will hurt our relationship with the person with whom we're trying to reconcile, and it will hurt us.

IV. Wisdom is required to show Christ-honoring restraint.

- Proverbs 17:27-28
- Restraint requires knowledge, the prerequisite to a cool spirit is understanding, and keeping silent is the result of wisdom and prudence.
- We don't want to rush reconciliation, but we also don't want to drag it out. So, how will we balance it and respond correctly to the unique situations we face? We have to fill our minds with the knowledge of God, we have to understand His precepts, and we absolutely must apply that truth to our situation.
- We have to wisely prepare our worldviews, reactions, focus, and retaliation. That will take an appropriate amount of time if we're not used to doing that. But we also have to make time for conflict, resolution, and the time this process is going to take. Trying to rush it in our own strength and for our own purposes is not going to please the Lord.
- And, yes, the other person may need time to prepare his heart as well. She may also respond poorly, and like we learned from Matthew 18, we're going to need to repeatedly and consistently keep going back to her.
- Don't rush the process. Don't prolong the process. Find the right balance. And you're absolutely going to need God's truth from His Word to navigate the situation in a way that pleases Him.