

RAISE THE MARK

MAY 2006

*Watermark Community Church
is committed to resolving
conflict in a way that glorifies
the Lord, edifies the body of
Christ and reflects the principles
laid out in Scripture. Since all
relationships-including those
among believers-will be faced
with disagreements at different
times, all Watermark Members,
as followers of Christ, commit to
following biblical principles for
resolving these issues.*

*If you love me, you will obey
what I command.*

JOHN 14:15

LOVING PEOPLE WELL IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT

HANDLING CONFLICTS, QUARRELS & DISOBEDIENCE

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. 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.' 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. MATTHEW 18:15-17

- Pray that we would not isolate ourselves but instead welcome the "wounds of a friend."
- Pray that we move quickly to seek another out when we learn that we have harmed another or have been harmed ourselves.

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

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

- Pray for Christlike responses when we have been wronged remembering the forgiveness we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- Pray that we would be fearless in our pursuit to preserve the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. That when moved by the Spirit we would not avoid difficult conversations.

RESPONDING IN LOVE

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **ROMANS 12:9-21***

- Pray for God's power to live out this passage responding in love regardless of our circumstances remembering that true Biblical love is "doing" not just "talking."

*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. **2 JOHN 1:6***

- Pray that we will be so yielded to God's Spirit that we exhibit His love in all situations. Be available to let God love others through us.

BEING A WORKMAN APPROVED

*Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. **2 TIMOTHY 2:14-16***

- Pray that we will be so familiar with God's Word that it guides our decisions and affects all areas of our lives.
- Pray that God will help us know and speak His Truth in love when conflict situations arise.

FOCUSING ON THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

ROMANS 5:1-11

- Thank God for the new life we have in Christ and pray that He will use us to reconcile others to Himself.
- Pray that we will cling to God in the midst of suffering and trials allowing Him to develop godly character in our lives.
- Pray for those on your Top Ten List.

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

- Pray through these verses personally as we prepare for communion.

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 JOHN 2:3-6

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 JOHN 1:5-9***