



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
March 03, 2013
re:build

desert breeze community church

Nehemiah 5:1-13 “**Conflict**”

The extent to which two people in a relationship can bring up & resolve issues is an important sign of relational health.

THE CAUSE OF CONFLICT:

v1 “*There arose a great outcry...against their Jewish brothers.*”
Four Complaints – v2 Food Shortages. v3 Over Mortgaged Homes. v4 High Taxes. v5 Forced Slavery

The External Problem Is Rarely The Real Problem!

The Real Problem: Self-centeredness (James4:1-4)

What God Said: Exodus 22:25; Deut. 23:19-20; Lev. 25:35-37;
John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37

- The root cause of interpersonal conflict and discord is always personal conflict (self-centeredness). (Phil. 2:1-4)
- My heart will forever be restless (personal conflict) until I find my rest (contentment) in God. (Phil.3:7-11, 4:11-13)
- *Personal health, wholeness and maturity are at the heart of every relationship that flourishes. (1Cor3:3)*

THE CURE FOR CONFLICT:

- 1) Reaction: Admit My Anger.** (v6; Eph4:26-27, 29-31; Heb.12:15) Do you tend to blow-up (hurt others) or clam-up (hurt yourself).
- 2) Reflection: Understand My Anger.** (V7a; James 1:19-20) Anger is energy for the defense of something you love and seeking the destruction of anything that would interfere. What am I defending & what am I seeking to destroy?
- 3) Reconciliation: Channel your Anger.** V7b How? Whether you are the offended or the offender, be the initiator (Matt5:23-26, 18:15) by speaking the truth in love (V7c-9; Eph4:15).

- 4) Resolution: Give, Forgive & Live for God’s Glory.** Vv10-13 Why? (Ps.2:11, 34:8-9, 130:4; Pro1:7, 2:1-5) To walk in the Fear of God (v9) is a joyful awe and wonder of the beauty and glory of who Jesus is and what He has done for us that frees us from our self-centeredness so that we can serve others unselfishly. (2Cor5:14-21)



Growing

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- 1)** How did your family handle conflict growing up? Why do you think that the extent to which two people in a relationship can bring up and resolve issues is an important sign of relational health?
- 2)** Read Nehemiah 5:1-13. What stands out to you from this text? If Satan can't get you from the outside (Chapter 4 - Opposition) he'll work on the inside (Chapter 5 – Divide & Conquer [Mark3:25]). Explain.
- 3)** What was the real problem in this conflict (v1; James 4:1-4)? Why do you think the external problems are rarely the real problem (i.e. v2 Food Shortages. v3 Over Mortgaged Homes. v4 High Taxes. v5 Forced Slavery)? Why are personal health, wholeness & maturity at the heart of every relationship that flourishes (Phil2:1-4, 3:7-11, 4:11-13; 1Cor3:3)?
- 4)** Why is admitting my anger an important 1st step to resolving conflict (Eph4:26-27, 29-31; Heb.12:15)? What is your sinful inclination in handling anger: blowing-up or clamming-up? To understand your anger what 2 questions must you ask (v7a; James1:19-20)?
- 5)** How does Nehemiah channel his anger (v7b-9; Eph5:15)? Who is to be the initiator of conflict resolution (Matt5:23-26, 18:15)? How do the people respond to Nehemiah's confrontation (vv9-13)? What does it mean to "walk in the fear of God" (v9) & why should that be our motivation for conflict resolution (Ps.2:11, 34:8-9, 130:4; Pro1:7, 2:1-5)? Pray.