



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Joshua 22

KEY POINT: Conflict navigated well improves relationships within the body of Christ.

FOR LEADERS

- *Coming to a close!*: Next week is our final week of the Fall 2020 Communities Season! Please stay tuned for more information regarding live, in-person services across our campuses, as well as up-to-date information about Community gatherings moving forward into 2021.

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week’s community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** What did Thanksgiving look like for your family this past week?
- [3] Opener:** What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH CONFLICT

In our passage this week we focused in on the topic of conflict, and how relationships are an incredible gift, even if they do inevitably come with conflict.

- [1]** In your opinion, do you think the majority of people see conflict as a good thing or a bad thing? How do the majority of people today tend to deal with conflict in their lives or relationships?
- [2]** Would you say that you’re a person who tends to walk toward conflict or walk away from conflict? Has that changed at all over the years?
- [3]** In what way might conflict actually improve a relationship with someone? Conversely, how might conflict avoidance actually hinder relational growth?

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Ask for volunteers to read Joshua 22:1-12.

- [4]** How would you summarize what’s going on here in this passage? Why is it such a big deal that the tribes east of the Jordan are constructing their own altar?

Ask for a volunteer to read John 4:23-24.

- [5]** What do you think relationships with other people have to do with worshiping God?
- [6]** When it comes to relationships, how might conflict stand in the way of truth? On the other hand, how might conflict actually help truth to prevail?

WORKING THROUGH CONFLICT

In Joshua 22:13-24, the western tribes of Israel confront the eastern tribes about the altar they’d built by the Jordan river. Pastor Ryan observed several aspects of this passage that may serve as examples for us when we engage in conflict with others. Let’s look at each of these together:



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Step 1: Don't sit passively as a victim – be proactive and seek reconciliation. {Joshua 22:13-18}

- [7]** Why do you think the western tribes felt responsible to confront their fellow Israelites about what they perceived to be sin against the Lord? What responsibility do Christians have to do the same?
- [8]** What goal(s) should a Christian have when working through conflict with someone?

Step 2: Confront with gentle-handed honesty. {Galatians 6:1}

- [9]** Why is it important to cultivate a gentle demeanor when restoring others in transgression?

Step 3: Desire Reconciliation. {Joshua 22:19-20}

- [10]** How does v. 19 instruct us in navigating conflict? When was a time where you experienced this yourself?

Step 4: Seek to understand one another fully. {Joshua 22:21-29}

- [11]** Why is it important to understand another person's side when working through conflict?
- [12]** Have you ever seen reconciliation derailed because of a lack of understanding? Explain.

Step 5: Be generous (but discerning) in giving the benefit of the doubt. {Joshua 22:30-34}

- [13]** What does it mean to grant someone the benefit of the doubt, and why is that a good thing? Where do we see this with the western tribes in our passage this week?
- [14]** How should we exercise discernment when granting the benefit of the doubt when working through conflict?

PRAYER

- [1]** Pray that the Lord would strengthen and grow each of us in our ability to navigate conflict well, and that we would be a church marked by our love for one another, not running away from conflict, but rather walking toward one another in gentles and in love.
- [2]** Pray that God would grant us strength, wisdom, and discernment for navigating any current conflicts in our lives, and that we would earnestly desire and seek restoration and reconciliation.