

Get Real About Yourself

The second of 4 godly responses to conflict
Get the Log Out of Your Own Eye – Matt 7:5

Life Bridge Community Church
Week 4 of 8



Review

Horizontal vs Vertical: Don't leave God out of your conflicts.

Whatever you do: Seek to glorify God, especially in "the moment."

Transforming Power of the Gospel: God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. (2 Pet 1:3)

Key Elements of Getting Real

"I" vs "You": Beyond leaving God out (the vertical), even in the horizontal, we mix up our priorities.
See Matthew 7:3-5 – "You hypocrite! First, take the log out of your own eye ..."

The deceitful human heart: We are blind to our own faults, or we see them but minimize their importance.
Four deadly words: "All I said was ..."

A Rule to Live By

Even if you are only responsible for 2% of a conflict, you're 100% responsible for your 2%.

The "Golden Response"

The first admission tends to trigger admission from others, b/c I tend to treat you the way you treat me.
The blame game leads only to escalation and disaster.

Getting to the Heart of the Conflict

We must remember that “cravings underlie conflicts”; the “why” behind the “what”
See James 4:1-2 – “[Conflict comes from] desires that battle within you ...”

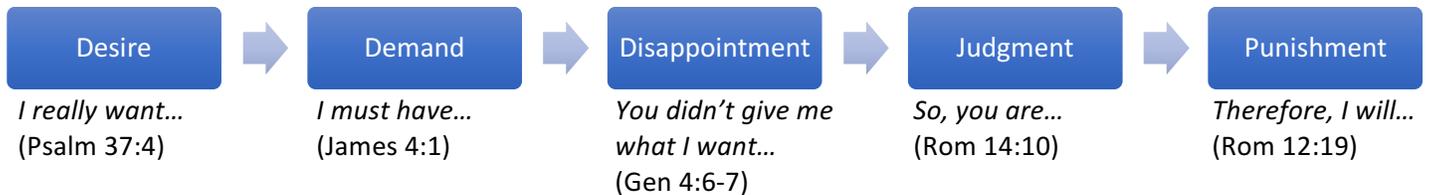
Cravings can be “idols” or “God substitutes.”

See Luke 12:29; Ephesians 5:5; Isaiah 42:17

- That which rules us
- That upon which we have set our hearts; that which we love
- That which we trust to make us happy or secure

All idols require sacrifice.
Anger is a signal that an idol is being starved.

How do idols work?



We let our idols rule us. We allow them to train us to judge and punish those we love, thereby training them to worship our idols alongside us.

How do I discover the idols in my life?

- What do you fear? What do you tend to worry about? What keeps you up at night? What do you believe would bring you the greatest pain or misery?
- What do you want? What do you believe would bring you the greatest happiness or safety?
- What would you sin to obtain? What would cause you to sin if it's denied?
- Have you ever stretched the truth in arguing for your desire or against someone else's?

Why is it important to discover my idols?

You will keep having the same conflicts over and over again if you don't uncover the idols in your heart.

How do I deal with an idol in my heart?

Repent. Acknowledge that you're worshipping another god, and turn away from it.

Replace. Discover what you want from the idol, and turn to God to get it instead.

Seek "the expulsive power of a new affection" (Thomas Chalmers); a "big love" drives out a "little love"

Rest. Be fully satisfied in God, not in earthly things (which cannot satisfy you).

Go on an Idol Hunt!

God's Word: Read, meditate on, and memorize Scripture regarding these things

God's People: Seek and listen to the counsel of trusted, god-fearing friends who will tell you the truth

God's Spirit: Pray; ask God to open your eyes to see idols and give you strength to cast them down

In a conflict, we tend to grab for a **microscope**, when what we need is a **mirror**.

Discussion Question(s)

1. Other than God, what do you fear? And what do you need in order to be happy?
2. What Scripture verses could you memorize and meditate on to help you root out your specific idols?
3. Who (give names, or give the context in which you know them – life group, accountability partner, etc) have you authorized to tell you the truth about you, even when it's hard to hear?
4. What would happen if you honestly acknowledged your idols to God and to others around you?