



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Conflict in Relationships - Tim Knipp

2-16-25

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- Jumping in at the deep end: What was a time where you didn't handle conflict in a relationship well? What happened and why? Or... what was a time when you handled conflict well? What happened and why?
- Conflict for me personally (Jake Nuckolls) is like a runaway train barreling towards a bridge that is out and if you step onto it, it will only go faster. In reality, it's never too late to pull the brakes. Listen to the song "Not Too Late" by Andy Gullahorn. Take a moment to let the Lord bring to mind situations, conflicts, concerns, where it actually is NOT TOO LATE.
  - <https://youtu.be/BjL0laYIXec?si=AR14VplfDR5EDhrs>

#### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**: Romans 12:17-19*
- Paul's writing about how conflict begins with agape (love) and it aims at shalom (peace) restoration. It's a fascinating project to look at relationships across the scripture. What other relational examples of the good and poor version of this can you find in the OT and NT?
  - Thinking Moses and the Egyptian, Esau and Jacob, Saul and David, what do these relational conflicts show us about conflict?
- Jesus says in Matthew 5:23-24 to go and make things right if you are in conflict. Where do we see him doing this or practicing this? Jesus and Judas comes to mind!
- Read back through Romans 12:9, 14, 16 - 19 and list what is written to help guide conflict. Pastor Tim named these on Sunday and as we practice engaging in healthy conflict, these phrases will help. Which of these will be the hardest for you?



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#### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- More than ever, we are in a polarized society, where it is just as polarizing to have healthy conflict. It's easier to pretend it isn't happening or to spew vitriol online without listening. How could the church spread the qualities of healthy conflict? What would this look like? What would it look like on social media, in the news, between believers, between political differences?
- What does Truth and Love mean for the church? How could Truth AND Love speak to this moment in history?

#### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- How did your home growing up approach conflict? Avoid, loud and hot? How has that influenced how you approach conflict now? How does your way of approaching conflict help or hinder your relationships and what can you do about it?
- Think of someone who you are in conflict with, maybe it's minimal and via Facebook, maybe it's unresolved and at home, imagine beyond the hurt or feelings of doubt or anger. How could you move to conflict in a way that isn't intending to stir the pot, be right, make it go away? What would that look like?

#### Time of Prayer