

Conflict Resolution 6

The Glory of God & Unity

Ephesians 4:1-16

4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

9 (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also [d]first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Unity

- Shared Doctrine & Lord
- Shared Goal
- Shared Means to Achieve the Goal in obedience to the Lord

Warnings

Unity Vs the Appearance of Unity

Cooperation without Unity - Two Cannot Walk together unless they are agreed

Fake or Superficial Unity & Cooperation

Ties that Bind & Being Antifragile

Us against the World - The Antithesis - The City of God & the City of Man

Uniformity to help to Keep Unity - **Philippians 3:12-16**

- Scripture over all
- Doctrine - Confession & Catechisms
- Goal - Chief End - Glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- Means - Law, Cases of Conscience, Form of Government, Directory of Worship
- Covenanting to seek the goal, with the means, according to the Doctrine together

Life Together

- Worship
- Fellowship - Work together in the same place toward the same goal
- Hospitality & Generosity - Rejoice & Enjoy
- Weep & Comfort
- Peaceableness - Charitable Interpretation, Forbearing, covering, and overlooking in love, Peaceable gentle rebukes

Love - High Valuation of the Glory of God, the Knowledge of God for Self & Others

- Study the Doctrine of God & Man, Ephesians 1

Love - Desire for the glory of God, the good of Self & Others

- Study the beauty of the design of GOD for the Renewed Man and World

Love - The Means of seeking the Good - the Law & The Process of Law

- Study the Law and how it connects to the goal

Love - A willingness to Sacrifice things for the Glory of God and for Other people

- Study false goods and how they are not satisfying - the book of Ecclesiastes

Godly Ambition - The Desire for Honor, Excellence, Superiority by righteous means and for holy ends.

Ephesians 1

1 Tim 3, Proverbs 31, Titus 2

John Owen - Rules for Walking in Fellowship

Moderation & Self-Control - Governance of the self to avoid extremes of action that are contrary to, or destructive of, the goal.

Moderation results in steadiness of the performance of chosen policy so that fitting actions are chosen with consistency in sequence through the duration of time and difficulty to make advances toward the goal.

Consider also:

Self Rule, Self Mastery, Gentleness, Meekness; Rightful dominion exercised over self.

Fortitude¹ - Strength of mind.

Fortitude is strength of mind. Fortitude comes from the residing of the Wisdom of Scripture in the heart. Wisdom gives the stability of knowledge to prevent being blown about by every wind of doctrine. Wisdom gives perspective about the vicissitudes of life. Wisdom gives firmness and stability.

This settledness of mind is fortitude and when it is a firmness in the truth it yields, guards, and supports many virtues.

Fortitude makes a man intrepid. It allows for genuine courage in danger.

Fortitude steels a man against suffering so that patience and longsuffering are clearly seen by others.

The Fortitude that comes from settled and habituated thought in the Wisdom of God gives a man power to look upon injuries as minor and thus he is able to bear.

Magnanimity, "Overmind", the Doxological Focus are enabled in all conditions of life.

¹ See Webster's 1828 definition.

Fortitude enables a person to encounter danger with coolness and courage because risk is seen as a part of the dominion process that a dominion man goes through.

Fortitude empowers a man to bear pain or adversity without murmuring, depression or despondency knowing with firmness that all suffering comes from the hand of God for the purposes of God which are inevitably and irrevocably for the wise man's good.

The Wisdom of The Law to Encourage Peace

Q123: Which is the fifth commandment?

A123: The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Q124: Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?

A124: By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth.

Q125: Why are superiors styled Father and Mother?

A125: Superiors are styled Father and Mother, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.

Q126: What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?

A126: The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors, or equals.

Q127: What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors.?

A127: The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.

Q128: What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?

A128: The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against, their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government.

Q129: What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?

A129: It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reprovng, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.

Q130: What are the sins of superiors?

A130: The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.

Q131: What are the duties of equals?

A131: The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each other's gifts and advancement, as their own.

Q132: What are the sins of equals?

A132: The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement of prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another.

Q133: What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?

A133: The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment.

Q134: Which is the sixth commandment?

A134: The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.

Q135: What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?

A135: The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defense thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreations; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild and courteous speeches and behavior; forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

Q136: What are the sins forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A136: The sins forbidden in the sixth commandment are, all taking away the life of ourselves, or of others, except in case of public justice, lawful war, or necessary defense; the neglecting or withdrawing the lawful and necessary means of preservation of life; sinful anger, hatred, envy, desire of revenge; all excessive passions, distracting cares; immoderate use of meat, drink, labor, and recreations; provoking words, oppression, quarreling, striking, wounding, and: Whatsoever else tends to the destruction of the life of any.

Three Possible Churches

1) Fragility - Lovelessness, Brittleness, Loneliness, Ineffectiveness

a) Frangible, Fragmentary, Schismatic

2) Fortitude - Sacrificial Love, Fortitude, Unity & Community, Progress

a) Strong, Durable, Lasting

3) Formlessness - Emotive “Love”, Weaponized Empathy, Fake Unity & Promiscuous Community, Goallessness

a) Flan-like, Jello, Evangellyfish

Which one will you help to build and guard?

Costly Conflict Resolution is part of making and keeping option 2.

We cannot bear up under constant abuse or over use of conflict resolution / Matthew 18.

Charitably interpret, Overlook & Forbear, Make use of Step 1 when possible, bring others besides officers as witnesses when possible into Step 2.