

### III. \_\_\_\_\_ THE COMMANDS

- A. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”*  
Matthew 18:15
- B. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:  
27 Neither give place to the devil.”*  
Ephesians 4:26-27
- C. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*  
Proverbs 15:1
- D. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”*  
Proverbs 15:23
- E. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.”*  
Proverbs 12:22
- F. Conflicts are to be resolved \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*  
Colossians 3:13

#### CONCLUSION:

What step(s) will you take to make your relationships work?

I will...

### MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK

#### Working Through Conflict Pastor Steve Reynolds

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Let’s face it, no one likes being involved in a messy relationship – the emotional scarring, the insults, the mind games, the hurts; it all starts to get to you after a while.

*“3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.*

*4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.*

*5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.*

*6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.*

*7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.”*  
Psalm 55:3-7

- B. God shows us the steps to making relationships work. In this series, you will learn four Biblical steps to maintaining love from the book of Philemon.

February 13	Messy Love
February 20	Working Through Communication
TODAY	Working Through Conflict
March 6	Working Through Forgiveness
March 13	Working Through Trust

The goal of this series is to show you how to make your relationships work.

- C. **TEXT:** Philemon 8-14 (Pew Bible/Page 220/New Testament)

Philemon has been called a “Postcard With A Punch”. Though it contains only 25 verses, the contents of these verses are quite powerful and emphasize maintaining love. Six times the word “love” (vs 5, 7 & 9) or “beloved” (vs 1, 2 & 16) is used here. It was written by Paul to Philemon about Onesimus.

## HOW TO WORK THROUGH CONFLICT

Rule #2: Attack the problem, not the person.

“...we shall take our revenge on him.” Jeremiah 20:10b

“12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”

Psalm 34:12-14

Attacking the problem \_\_\_\_\_ relationships,  
attacking the person \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ THE QUESTIONS

A. Have I \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s direction?

“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5

Talk to God before you talk to the person.

B. Should I \_\_\_\_\_ this with love?

“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.” Proverbs 10:12

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” I Peter 4:8

If you can overlook the offense without getting bitter then do it.

C. What did \_\_\_\_\_ do wrong?

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

“1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.” Matthew 7:1-5

Always assume you bear some responsibility for any conflict.

D. Do I have all the \_\_\_\_\_?

“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.” Proverbs 18:13

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Philippians 2:4

Seek first to understand.

### II. \_\_\_\_\_ THE EXTREMES

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Style = \_\_\_\_\_ up/Clam up

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

Ephesians 4:15

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Style = \_\_\_\_\_ up/Blow up

“An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.” Proverbs 29:22