

Ps. Mike Harlan – Online Campus

CULTURE CODE SERIES: *Disciples Making Disciples*

May 22, 2022

Romans 12:2a (MSG)

“CONFRONTING CONFLICT & CHAOS WITH CREATIVITY”

Don't become so well-adjusted to your **CULTURE** that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out... - **Romans 12:2a (MSG)**

WHAT IS CULTURE? (*"it means to cultivate"*). *The way of life for people; along with their behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, passed down through communication and imitated from one generation to the next.*

THE FORMATION OF CULTURE:

Language ————— Forms Behavior ————— Creates Culture

THE FAITH FORMATION OF CULTURE:

Words ————— Forms Thoughts ————— Reinforces Behavior ————— Speaks
Hear Faith Settles in your Soul Habits/Strongholds Comes Out from You

THE COMMITMENT TO CONFRONT CONFLICT AND TO MAKE PEACE IS HIGHLY VALUED THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE:

A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel. - **Proverb 16:18 (NIV)**

Let your desire be for peace with all men, and to be made holy, without which no man may see the Lord. - **Hebrews 12:14 BBE)**

Therefore, since we have been justified [that is, acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] by faith, [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed). - **Romans 5:1 (AMP)**

“Unsettled Conflict can produce an unsettled and a stunted environment.”

THREE NEGATIVES CONFLICT BRINGS:

- *Conflict brings confusion*
- *Conflict brings rejection*
- *Conflict brings anger*

THREE POSITIVES CONFLICT BRINGS

- *Conflict brings change*
- *Conflict brings growth*
- *Conflict brings solutions*

“Change versus conflict equals growth”

“We are to learn how to handle confrontation with grace and truth, approaching one another with the heart of God's Word, and forgiving them for any wrong committed!”

WHEN CONFRONTING CONFLICT & CHAOS WITH CREATIVITY, WE MUST REMEMBER:

1. TO LOWER OUR VOICE

1 A soft *and* gentle *and* thoughtful answer turns away wrath, but harsh *and* painful *and* careless words stir up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise speaks knowledge that is pleasing *and* acceptable, but the [babbling] mouth of fools spouts folly. - **Proverbs 15:1-2 (AMP)**

“The more I raise my voice the more I lower my intelligence!”

The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools. - **Ecclesiastes 9:17 (NIV)**

“Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter, hush until it heals”

2. BREATHE AND SLOW DOWN THE PACE OF YOUR SPEAKING

A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control. - **Proverbs 28:11 (NHEB)**

3. LEARN TO LISTEN AND NOT ALWAYS TALK

Understand this, my beloved brothers, and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]. - **James 1:19 (AMP)**

Through pride *and* presumption come nothing but strife, But [skillful and godly] wisdom is with those who welcome [well-advised] counsel. - **Proverbs 13:10 (AMP)**

4. LISTEN FOR THE HURT BEHIND THE WORDS

Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy. - **Proverbs 14:10 (NIV)**

“Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor] are the makers *and* maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God. - **Matthew 5:9 (AMP)**

“Conflict and Chaos are destructive behaviors that produce resentment between people, and question their peace with God!”