



“I—Incarnation of Jesus Christ” Philippians 2:1-11

Relationships are only as healthy as the individuals that make up those relationships. Therefore, individual wholeness is the key to healthy relationships. Relationships do not put us in conflict with others as much as they put us in conflict with our own sinful nature (Pride). The extent to which two people in a relationship can bring up and resolve issues is a critical marker of the soundness of the relationship. The Incarnation (God becoming man) is the ultimate example of conflict resolution.

THE CAUSE OF CONFLICT: PRIDE

vv1-3a Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit...

“Selfish Ambition” = (Gr. Eritheai) a desire to promote yourself.

“Conceit” = (Gr. Kenodoxia) Kenos means to empty and doxa means glory. Glory empty means to be starved for respect, honor, validation, approval and significance.

- It is a cosmic insecurity of thinking and feeling that I don’t matter or count. Gen2:25, 3:7-8
- This is the fallen human condition of internal conflict that causes external conflict. James 4:1-2
- Symptoms: (Pride) Drivenness, Defensiveness, Scornfulness and Self-consciousness. Gal5:14-15, 25-26

THE CURE TO CONFLICT: HUMILITY

3b but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- If the cause of conflict is an inner emptiness (conceit) then humility must mean inner fullness. v3b; James 4:6
- Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less because of an inner fullness. It is a blessed self-forgetfulness. v4; Rom12:10
- A humble person is totally dependent upon God, exceptionally content and incredibly interested in others. Matt22:37-40; Phil1:25

THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

INCARNATION v5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

- Jesus is fully God who became fully man (Hypostatic Union) to be the only mediator perfectly representing both God and man. vv6-7; 1Tim2:5
- Jesus emptied Himself of His Glory by living the life we should have lived and dying the death we should have died so that we could be full of His love and glory. vv6-8; John17:22-23
- Since I have fullness in Jesus Christ through His encouragement, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit, affection and sympathy I can empty myself (humility) for others fullness in Him. v1; 2Cor8:9, 9:8; vv9-11

Growing Notes

- 1) What’s the key to healthy relationships? Relationships don’t put us in conflict with others as much as they put us in conflict with our own sinful nature (Pride). Explain. Why is conflict resolution a healthy marker in the soundness of relationships? How is the Incarnation (God becoming man) the ultimate example of conflict resolution?
- 2) Read Philippians 2:1-11. What stands out to you from this text? What is the big idea of this text (Subject)? What is he saying about the big idea of the text (Explanation)?
- 3) What is the cause of relational conflict (v3a)? What is pride (conceit)? How does internal conflict (pride/conceit) cause external conflict (James 4:1-2)? What are the symptoms of this internal conflict?
- 4) What is the cure to conflict? What is humility? What are the characteristics of a humble person?
- 5) What is the ultimate example of conflict resolution? What is the incarnation? How did Jesus empty Himself of His glory (vv6-8)? How will that fill us so that we can empty ourselves for others fullness in Christ? Pray.