

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Conflict**  
**Pastor Gabe**  
**July 26, 2020**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What is one of your biggest pet peeves? OR How does your family approach conflict?

**Reading: Proverbs 16:2, 17:9,14,19, 18:17, 24:29, 25:15, 26:17-21, 29:9**

**Outline:**

- I. Don't attack in conflict. (Prov. 17:14, 17:19, 24:29, 26:17, 29:9)
  - a. Do not involve yourself in conflicts that aren't your problem.
  - b. Attacking can hurt us, harms others, and leads to destruction in relationships. If your goal in conflict is not reconciliation, it will end in destruction.  
**Q: How can we decide whether or not a conflict is our problem?**
- II. Don't avoid conflict. (Prov. 17:9)
  - a. Don't stray towards passive aggression or "sweep problems under the rug."
  - b. Avoiding conflict and harboring resentment is not a virtue. It is selfish to choose our own comfort over addressing something that is damaging to someone else.  
**Q: How can we "cover offenses" while also avoiding resentment?**
- III. Instead, attend to conflict. (Prov. 16:2, 18:17, 25:15)
  - a. Be generous, genuine, and gentle: be generous in assumptions about others' motives, genuinely listen for/speak the truth of the situation, and be gentle in your approach.
  - b. Look to Christ: he was generous in pouring out his grace, he was genuine in showing us the truth in his teachings, and he forgives again and again in his compassion towards us.  
**Q: If God weighs the spirit, how can we decide who is "right" in a conflict?**

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) Do you tend to attack in conflict or avoid it?
- 2) How can you act in love towards someone in your life who attacks/avoids conflict?
- 3) Think of a time when a conflict ended badly for you. Why? What can you improve on?
- 4) Is there a current conflict in your life that God is calling you to resolve?
- 5) How can you be more generous, genuine, and/or gentle in your next conflict?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Matthew 8:15-35**Q: How do we reconcile forgiveness with unacceptance of repeated sins?**
- Genesis 13 **Q: How was Abram generous, genuine, and gentle in his resolution with Lot?**
- James 4:11-12**Q: What does James mean in saying we can "speak evil against the law?"**

**Closing Prayer:** *Lord God, thank you that You are in the reconciliation business. You didn't attack or avoid us, but you were attendant to us. You entered into our pain and conflict with You and with each other, and through Jesus' death and resurrection, You brought us back to You. Teach us to be agents of reconciliation. Help us to be generous, genuine, and gentle with those we find ourselves in conflict with; guide us in that. Teach us to extend your love and grace to a hurting world. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

