

Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Conflict Starts in the Heart

5.1 Key Principle: God uses conflict to reveal our idols

5.2 What is an idol?

An idol is anything apart from God that we depend on to be happy, fulfilled, or secure. It is something other than God that we set our hearts on (Luke 12:34), that rules us (Jeremiah 7:24), or that we trust, fear, or serve (Isaiah 42:17, Luke 12:4-5, Matthew 6:24).

5.3 The progression of an idol (the Four I's):

1) **I desire** (not necessarily a bad/sinful thing)

Psalm 37:4⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.

2) **I demand** (the birth of an idol)

1 Timothy 6:9⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

3) **I judge**

Matthew 7:1-2¹ Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

4) **I punish**

Genesis 4:8; also see Proverbs 11:17⁸ Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

5.4 Expose idols by asking x-ray questions:

1) With what am I preoccupied?

2) How would I complete the statement, "If only _____, then I would be happy, fulfilled and secure."

3) When a certain desire is not met, do I feel frustration, anxiety, resentment, bitterness, anger, or depression?

5.5 The cure for an idolatrous heart:

1) **Repent** and receive God's refreshing forgiveness.

Acts 3:19¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

2) Worship and **delight** yourself in the Lord.

Psalm 37:4⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.