

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Abraham's Conflict Management

D. J. Stucky

Conflict is an inescapable part of life. It does not matter who a person is or where they are from, they have experienced conflict and will continue to experience it throughout their lives. Frequently, this conflict comes because of misunderstandings in a relationship. If these misunderstandings are not corrected, it can put great strain on that relationship, and it creates a conflict that is difficult to handle. The best thing to do is to correct the misunderstanding as quickly as possible and be proactive in restoring the stability of the relationship. Only then can there be assurance that the problem is solved. This is exactly what Abraham did when he came into conflict with Abimelech in Genesis 21:22-34.

Abraham's fame and reputation had spread as a result of God's blessings. Abimelech recognized that Abraham was blessed by God, and so he sought to make a covenant between them (Gen. 21:22-23). Abraham accepted the terms of the covenant and brought a complaint to Abimelech as part of that acceptance. Abimelech's servants had seized a well of water, apparently unbeknownst to Abimelech, and Abraham rebuked him (21:24-26). Abraham then gave gifts of his flock to Abimelech, and set aside seven ewe lambs as a witness to their covenant. The covenant was sealed, and the place was named Beersheba. For many days thereafter, Abraham was able to dwell harmoniously in the land of the Philistines.

Abraham had every right to be angry with Abimelech and make demands for restitution. What we see is exactly the opposite. Abraham gave gifts to Abimelech and went out of his way to establish a covenant between them. He handled the situation with integrity and put measures in place that ensured he would be found blameless. He used great wisdom and shrewdness, but tempered that with meekness (Matt. 10:16). Our first instinct when we are wronged is to lash out and go on the offensive. This is neither constructive, nor is it godly (Gal. 5:20; 2 Cor. 12:20). Our first desire should be to find harmony in the relationship, even if it requires something of us personally. Abraham sacrificed even though he was the one that was wronged. Because of this he was able to live peacefully in the land of the Philistines. Forgiveness often requires that we sacrifice our pride and our sense of entitlement. We are to forgive as Christ forgave us (Col. 3:12-14). Christ went out of His way to justify us when we were the ones who were in sin (Rom. 5:8). Because of this work, we now can live at peace with God. Even when we are wronged, may we be the ones that work toward forgiveness.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

D. J. Stucky

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am

AM Worship
10:00 am

PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am

Bible Study
7:00 pm

Cleburne,
Texas

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No Fear

Kevin W. Rhodes

Fear has become a mainstay of political propaganda. According to a wide array of websites, the election of the candidate they oppose would lead to consequences so severe and catastrophic that the very fabric of society and life itself might hang in the balance. The hyperbole used by the candidates and political parties themselves has made fear-mongering an art form—a grotesque, misshapen, perverted form of art. As the chasm between world-views deepens, the clashing rhetoric of these world-views has created an all-too-real fear among the people who listen. In a way, this makes sense. Those who came of age during the threat of nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States rarely fell into a constant state of fear; it was instead a kind of steady tension. However, the rise of terrorism as a constant threat in the new millennium has raised a very different prospect. People are uneasy in general because so much of the world they knew appears under threat. They feel threatened by the influx of immigrants from places known to harbor terrorists. They feel threatened by the upheaval of social mores foisted upon them by elitist judges ruling from afar with a disdain for both morality and history but with great confidence in the power of a black robe. They feel threatened by the economic changes created by an unbalanced playing field in the workplace and the monetary policies of nations. They feel threatened by the

skyrocketing cost of healthcare along with its retreating coverage. People carry all of these fears with them constantly in addition to the regular challenges of daily life.

Fear has become natural to us. But that is all the more reason to turn to the comforting words of the psalms and to gain perspective, for in them we are reminded that “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble” (Psa. 46:1), and that this alone is the reason not to fear—no matter what (Psa. 46:2-3). God does not promise to remove all trouble. He does not promise to relieve all our pain. He does not promise there will be no trials. He promises something more important than these things. He promises He will be with us (Psa. 46:7). All that man does poses no threat to Him (Psa. 46:8-9), and that is why, when we have Him with us, we need not fear.

Regardless of who is in power in this country or any other, the LORD is God, and that is what really matters. When a terrorist strikes, the LORD is still in heaven. When the Supreme Court issues a ruling, God has still spoken. When tragedy strikes, God is still love. Therefore, rather than allowing the challenges and heartaches of life to let fear enter your heart, fill it with faith instead. “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psa. 46:10). “The LORD of hosts is with us” (Psa. 46:11a), but we must first determine to be with Him.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Debbie Boroughs will be seeing a kidney specialist. Her blood work showed some abnormality.
- Kerri Boroughs had to have her foot put in a cast because of nerve damage from neuropathy.
- Shirley Elkins' doctor appointment has been postponed for another week. She will see the doctor February 17th.
- Casey Lehtinen's current treatment is successfully suppressing his bone marrow. Therefore, he was able to return home and will be able to continue with it as an outpatient. If remission is indicated by another aspiration in 2 weeks, a transplant will follow shortly afterwards.
- Pat McIntosh will be leaving for Ukraine on Friday, February 10th.
- Mary McPherson is waiting for an appointment with an orthopedic doctor. She can't bend her knee. She is doing her student teaching this semester and can't miss more than one day.
- Dyne Pinkerton had the nerve endings in her back burnt on Wednesday, February 1st.
- Mary Reynolds had eight shots in her spine last week.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Dot Blitch and family in the passing of Ben on Saturday. The funeral services was Wednesday.

Please note...

- Tuesday, February 14th will be game night starting at 6:00 in the annex.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

Acts 24:15

I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

2 Timothy 4:1

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

Review 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 2/5

Front South

Will Cammack
Colton Allen
J. D. Allen

Front North

Dale Ash
Bill Cashion
Gary Barger

Back South

Weldon York
Steve Baze
Britt Bachhofer

Back North

Mark Stubblefield
Gene Threadgill
Ricky Threadgill

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes

Sunday PM

Tim Norman
Robert Pennay
Conner Hackler

Wednesday PM

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Russ Jones

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Kyle Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Larry McWilliams

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Kyle Day / Paul Murphy



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Try to Remember
1 Corinthians 1:23-26

PM

It Isn't Where You're From...
Judges 10:17-11:28

Calendar of Events



5/14-17 Gospel Meeting with Mike Bonner

6/7-8/30 Summer Series: Families of Faith

9/15-16 Marriage Seminar with
John and Carla Moore

11/5-8 Gospel Meeting with Mark Hanstein



Our Records

Bible Class153
AM Worship.....225
PM Worship.....139
Wednesday Bible Class116
Contribution..... \$7,094

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