

Reconciliation in Communication

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Galatians 5:13-15

You, my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your Freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."

1. Do not indulge your sinful nature. Instead, serve one another in love.
 - The servant posture is lost
 - Encouragement and support is abandoned (Hebrews 10:24)

THE OPPOSITE OF SERVING IN LOVE IS NOT A LACK OF LOVE AND A LACK OF SERVING, BUT AN ACTIVE INDULGING OF THE SINFUL NATURE.

2. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Inter-personal relationship problems are not primarily horizontal but vertical. The first great commandment always precedes the second. I will never love my neighbor as myself, if I am not loving God above all else.

3. If you keep on biting and devouring each other watch out and you will be destroyed by each other.

Words that are critical, condemning, manipulative, threatening, judgmental, selfish, malicious, demanding, ruthless and vengeful are like grenades.

Redemptive speaking means saying no to any communication that would flow from such a heart

4. We must refuse to speak in any way contrary to what the spirit is seeking to produce in me and others (verses 16-18)

Verses 19-21 expound on this by reminding us that we should say "no" to any rationalization, blame-shifting, or self-serving arguments that would excuse talk that is contrary to God. (See verse 25)

5. In Galatians 6:1,2 we are told to have a restorative view of relationships

Paul is calling us to an agenda that has its roots in the fundamental recognition that our relationships do not belong to us but to God.

Homework: When husbands and wives disagree over the same old stuff once again, they need to discover where they are caught. Every time you exhibit a "demand agenda" rather than a "restoration agenda"- chart it. How do you know the difference? If in doubt, ask your spouse "did my words help you toward the cross or drive you further away?"