

LECTURE 4: Mapping Pastoral Care Part 2

4, 11, 18, 25 May 2023, 730-930pm

Class Description

As we dethrone God and enthrone ourselves, we cannot but create conflict with one another in various contexts; at home, at work, in church, in marriages. How can we help others engage conflicts in a godly way that won't undermine the gospel? Many Christians who experience same-sex attraction and seeking to obey Christ are living lonely lives in our churches. When someone shares his/her struggle with us, how can we pastorally care for them? Addiction comes in many different forms – addiction to substances (e.g. drugs/alcohol) or to certain activities (e.g. gaming, porn or gambling). Trapped and often ashamed with their addictions, many Christians live hypocritically in our churches in fear of judgement. When one finally musters up the courage and opens up to us, how would care look like?

Learning Goals

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Develop a biblical framework in thinking about 1) Conflict, 2) Same-sex Attraction, 3) Addiction.
- *Describe* the suffering: For each of this suffering category, we want to first be able to describe the predicament. While we can never identify fully, understanding the suffering helps us to mourn with those who mourn. So we first ask : What is it like to experience same-sex attraction? What's the dynamics of conflicts? What's the experience of fighting addiction? What makes it difficult?
- *Locate* the suffering biblically: For each of this suffering category, we want to understand it through the lenses of God's revelation and ultimately the gospel of Christ. We want explain these suffering biblical-theologically against the prevalent world views on them.
- *Discern* what are unloving and loving responses towards these sufferers, and develop a posture and practical strategies to pastorally care for them.

Recommended Reading

On Conflict:

- LANE & TRIPP, Relationships: A Mess Worth Making
- NOBLE, The Path of a Peacemaker: Your Biblical Guide to Healthy Relationships, Conflict Resolution, and a Life of Peace
- SMITH, Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments

On Same-sex Attraction:

- HILL, Washed & Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness & Homosexuality
- ALLBERRY, Is God Anti-Gay: And other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible & Same-sex Attraction
- YARHOUSE & ZAPOROZHETS, Costly Obedience: What We Can Learn from the Celibate Gay Christian Community

On Addiction:

- WELCH, Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave: Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel
- WELCH, Crossroad: Step-by-step Guide Away from addiction
- ROBERTS, The Porn Problem
- CHESTER, Captured by a Better Vision

Homework:

Consider your church's pastoral care for those suffering in these ways. How are they being or not being cared for? Reflect on how have you previously perceived these sufferings, and how has it changed.

Pastoral Care in Conflicts

<Conflict Video: Workplace & Kitchen>

1. A Biblical Framework

- i. Post-Fall World (Gn.4:6-8, 6:5-6, 37:18-20)
- ii. What causes quarrel (Js.4:1-4)
- iii. First take out the log in your own eye (Mt.7:3-5)
- iv. If your brother sins against you (Mt.18:15-18)
- v. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Ep.4:32, Col.3:13, Mt.6:12)
- vi. Sin, Confession, Repentance & Forgiveness (James 4:4-10, 1John1:8-9)

2. Growing in Self-Awareness: My Conflict Strategy

i. Six Ways We Sin

(Figure 4.1 in Relationships: A Mess Worth Making)

	Seeks / Wants	Acceptable Cost	Nightmare / Fear	Others' Experience	Telltale Emotion / Action
Self-Centeredness	Attention, approval	Will sacrifice control and independence	Rejection, not being recognized or affirmed	Others feel used, minimized, smothered	Anxious, needy
Self-Rule	To be right, in control	Will sacrifice intimacy and unity	Being seen as wrong, being dependent	Others feel coerced, manipulated	Angry
Self-Sufficiency	Independence, time alone	Will sacrifice intimacy, mutually helpful community	The dependence and neediness of others	Others feel ignored, unappreciated	Cold, distant
Self-Righteousness	Being right in the eyes of others	Will sacrifice relationships that challenge or confront	Being wrong, guilty, or condemned	Others feel challenged, condemned, or dismissed	Aggressive, argumentative
Self-Satisfaction	Pleasure (self-defined)	Will sacrifice community if inconvenient	Others interfering with personal pleasure	Others feel like objects, not companions	Controlling, demanding, dissatisfied
Self-Taught	A platform for one's own opinion	Will sacrifice growing together if you disagree	Being told what to think, say, and do	Others feel patronized, disrespected	Opinionated, domineering

ii. The Slippery Slope - Escape, Attack, Make Peace

(Ken Sande & Kevin Johnson, *Resolving Everyday Conflict* , p37)



iii. What tend to produce conflict in your life:

- ☐ **Comfort.** I want, must have, and serve comfort and you'd better not get in the way of me getting it! I fear hard work.
- ☐ **Pleasure.** I want, must have, and deserve pleasure and you'd better give it to me! I fear pain.
- ☐ **Recognition.** I want, must have, and deserve recognition or I will be devastated. I fear being overlooked.
- ☐ **Power.** I want, must have, and deserve power and you'd better to what I say! I fear being told what to do.
- ☐ **Control.** I want, must have, and deserve control and you will feel the brunt of my disappointment if you mess up my tidy little universe! I fear unpredictability.
- ☐ **Acceptance.** I want, must have, and deserve acceptance and you are responsible to give it to me. I fear rejection.

iv. My Family of Origin's Strategies (conflicts in your family growing up):

- ☐ How did your family managed conflict?
- ☐ What were the unspoken rules?
- ☐ What are the typical ways to resolve problems?
- ☐ Were there regular patterns of forgiveness?
- ☐ Have you witnessed forgiveness sought or granted?
- ☐ How did you normally communicate?
- ☐ Who typically have the say?
- ☐ Was your family loud or quiet?
- ☐ What was dinner conversation like?
- ☐ Were there taboo topics? Things you've know you can't share?
- ☐ How was anger expressed?
- ☐ What was done to keep family relationally strong amidst busyness?
- ☐ Were people motivated positively or with threats and guilt?
- ☐ Was living at home relaxing or walking on eggshells?
- ☐ How was service one another modeled and encouraged?
- ☐ Which values of your family have become your values?
- ☐ Which struggles of your family have become your struggles?

v. My Growth in Conflict Resolution