

MAKING JESUS THE LORD OF MY LIFE--LESSON 4B

MAKING JESUS LORD IN MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

3. **Because conflicts with others can threaten our own salvation and that of others, we must determine the things that offend and take them away.** Matthew 18:7-14

- When we look for the causes of trouble between ourselves and another person, where does Jesus tell us to start? Matthew 7:1-5 _____

It will help to study and list the things in you that upset the other person.

Are you reacting too strongly to ordinary faults within the other person? In an imperfect world, people are not going to stop doing things that offend us. Much of the solution has to be in controlling our reaction to the wrongs. How does love react? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- We should be as willing to give up things that cause sin and conflict as we would be to give up a _____ or _____ or _____. Matthew 18:8, 9
- A Christian should even be willing to be _____ rather than to prolong an ugly conflict with another person. 1 Corinthians 6:7; Matthew 5:39-41
- If something I enjoy causes spiritual problems for another person, what should I be willing to do? Romans 14:13,15,19,21 _____

4. **Jesus has given us a way to clear up conflicts and deal with wrongs.** Matthew 18:15-20; 5:23-26

- What are the three steps Jesus gives for dealing with a person who has done wrong to you? Matthew 18:15-17 _____

- When one person has wronged another, does Jesus say *which* of them should be the first to go to the other? Matthew 18:15; 5:23, 24 _____. What, then, is important? _____
- With what attitude or spirit should you approach a wrongdoer in order to help him? Galatians 6:1 _____

- Considering the damage that a lasting conflict does, how quickly should we try to resolve our conflict with another person? Matthew 5:25; Ephesians 4:26
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5. **We must forgive as God forgives.** Matthew 18:21-35

- Whose job is it to pay back people who do wrong? Romans 12:19, 20
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- Why does our own salvation depend on forgiving others? Matthew 6:14, 15
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- Who gains an opportunity when we keep anger and resentment in our hearts? Ephesians 4:26, 27
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- Who is our example in forgiving others? Luke 23:33, 34
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- Do you think forgiveness is a feeling or a decision? (Can a feeling be commanded?)
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- When people mistreat us, instead of paying back evil for evil, we Christians are to overcome evil with _____ . Romans 12:20, 21

Many marriages, church fellowships, and working relationships have been saved and kept together simply because the people involved valued the relationship enough to do what it took to keep harmony. Little strains in relationships, like little tears in a garment, must be mended before they grow bigger. We must be willing to communicate or say "sorry" whenever it is needed. We can and must keep our relationships right. Our relationship to God depends on our relationship to others. Only when Jesus is Lord of our relationships can our lives be filled with his grace and power.