



THE CRAZY CYCLE

1. Without using anyone's name, what is the biggest single conflict you have had with another person? Do you think you handled it in a Biblical manner? If you could go back and change how you handled it, would you? What would you do differently?
2. Read Matthew 18:15-17. When someone sins against you or offends you, what are the three steps that Jesus said to take? Have you ever tried this? What happened?
3. Most people would not do these steps, why do you think this is true? How do most people respond when someone offends them? What do you think would happen if all of us would take these steps? Read Colossians 3:13. No matter how people respond to us or what they do, what is our responsibility?
4. What did Pastor Rick say are the three damages that are caused by unresolved conflict? Read the three passages that he gave for each one.
5. What are the seven steps to resolve conflict that Pastor Rick gave? Talk about each one and what each one means. Which do you think is the most difficult? How would we need to change ourselves in order to do these steps?

Answers

2. The three steps are: a. Go to the person privately, let them know what the issue is, and attempt to resolve the issue with them; b. If they are unwilling to resolve the issue, ask one or two others who are spiritually mature to go back with you and talk with them about the issue. The elders of the church would be a good choice.; c. The elders of the church should share with the church what the issue is and if this does not cause the person to resolve the issue, no longer fellowship with them. The main idea of all of these steps is not punishment, but restoration. Usually 95% of the issues will be resolved with the first step.

3. Most people will not take these steps because they are hard and require a certain degree of spiritual maturity. Most people would rather just complain about another person to others instead of resolving the issue. If we all did this, harmony would exist within the church because the cause of disharmony would be removed. Colossians 3:13 says that no matter how a person responds to us or what they do to us, our responsibility is to always forgive the other person. You have not forgiven a person if you are in any way punishing them for what they did in the way you treat them.

4. The three damages that happen to us if we are unwilling to resolve conflict are: a. It blocks our fellowship with God 1John 4:20; b. it hinders our prayer life, Psalm 66:18; and c. It limits our ability to be happy 2 Corinthians 2:10-11.

5. The seven steps for conflict resolution are: a. I must take the initiative regardless of who is at fault; b. I must completely confess my part of the problem; c. I must seek to understand the other's pain; d. I must consider their perspective of the situation; e. I must speak truthfully and tactfully with love, no matter what; f. I must fix the problem and not the blame; and g. I must focus on reconciliation, not resolution.

