

Natural Healing Express Weekly

Column Volume 150 Resolving Disagreements

Last weekend, I was able to return to Indianapolis, where I was residing when I received the life changing call that spurred my return to God's country. What followed that call was "Life Interrupted" to say the least. There is still a big aspect of my life there that just sort of had the Pause button hit. Going there, where I have things, as in a houseful, seems a little peculiar. I miss people there, especially my closest friends. I also miss some of the things that the geography and city life provide. However, one of the things I miss the most is my church, Connection Pointe.

Connection Pointe has a fantastic Pastor, Steve Reeves, who is just a get to the point kind of guy. No drama, no guilt, just a come-in-prepared, armed with scripture and deliver a direct message man. And most of the time, even though he doesn't really mean to, he is pretty entertaining while doing it. If you are ever in Brownsburg, Indiana on a Saturday night or a Sunday morning (there are four service times) please stop in. I promise you will not regret it.

So, as a few major things in my life are changing, I found myself in Indy and able to make the 945am service with ease. I was very happy about being able to attend and then after a Saturday filled with let's just say "moving on logistics", I was looking for some peace and comfort in Steve's message. Oh boy was I about to be surprised. He came out swinging to the roughly 1500 people in attendance. His message was Resolving Disagreements. I immediately felt like I was a day late and a dollar short, but got out my pencil to take a few notes.

Where Pastor Steve began was talking about a biblical principle dispute on a doctrine issue regarding circumcision. There occurred with the "Legalists" regarding the Gentiles that were being saved and Paul had a lot to say about that. I believe it is discussed in Acts 15 or you can ask your Pastor or bible scholar. What wasn't lost on me was the steps the two parties utilized to resolve the disagreement. Those are fairly simple and I thought I would share them with you since I actually did sit there and take notes for the first time in about, well, I don't know, ever.

The Six Steps of Resolving a Doctrine Issue (most of us can apply this to work, organizations or committees) that Pastor Steve presented are as follows:

1. Address the ISSUE ...Yep, talk about it. Get it out there. You can't solve it if it isn't chatted about.
2. Chose a mediator....Find a neutral, intelligent party that can fairly represent both sides.
3. Make a FIRM decision.....don't be wishy-washy and leave things in the grey area.
4. Make concessions....Offer something in return....Or Give a little to get a little.
5. Communicate the Decision....Make sure everyone involved understands the decision. Doesn't really matter that they need to understand why the decision was made or by whom (that's the ego part of it) Just be clear what the Firm Decision is and name the concessions. Present it uniformly.
6. Those who disagree, agree to cooperate...Sometimes you just have to take one for the team. Present a united front.

Pastor Steve followed this up with a great story about Paul and Barnabas who had a very strong PERSONAL Issue. He reminded us that most personal issue being as a result of a matter of opinion. These opinions are based on each party's difference in character, background or experiences.

He presented this as more of a "Life Lessons" in resolving conflict, those involving four steps.

1. Disagreements will happen...(especially if you are a THINKER)

2. Disagreements are dangerous....Try to Avoid them if possible..The smartest approach most of the time is to BACK OFF. Try not to argue, as it causes hurt. Weigh the Long Term Consequences.
3. Disagreements can usually be resolved. Make Concessions.
4. Disagreements can leave DEEP wounds. Be forgiving and reconcile if possible. When you compromise you are the wiser.

This is the cliff note version of this powerful session that I found effective for me at the time of hearing it. I hope you enjoyed it. Have a great week!

Enjoy! Hope to see you soon and as always, please contact us via one of the following methods. Natural Healing Express: Phone 815 990 8732, email: skscham@aol.com 204 W Main St, Lena, IL 61048.

Website: www.naturalhealingexpress.com Facebook: Natural Healing Express