

Reading: James 3:13-18

Topic: Human Relationships

INTRODUCTION: Plants live and survive by responding to stimuli and the _____ operate by their instincts, but human beings have the ability to _____ and reason with their minds and to _____ and sense with their emotions, thus making them much more complex.

I. HUMAN INTERACTION:

A. The First Family:

1. The first human being that God created was made with God's own _____ and received direct life into his body from the very _____ of God Himself. Gen. 2:7
2. God made an observation that it was not going to be a _____ thing for this man to try to live his life by just interacting with the _____ and the animals. Gen. 2:18-20
3. God gave to Adam another human being, not exactly like him but what the Word of God calls _____ or in the Hebrew translation, a _____. Gen. 2:21,22

B. The First Conflict:

1. The first recorded human conflict came after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of _____ because of their _____ of disobedience to God's word. Gen. 3:23,24
2. This conflict arose over a _____ issue, not a natural one, as God accepted the correct sacrifice of Abel who offered a lamb as a sacrifice unto God, and rejected the offering of his older _____ Cain who offered a bloodless sacrifice of the _____ of his own hands, the fruit of the ground. Gen. 4:3-5
3. The conflict was really between God and Cain, but notice how Cain turns his anger and _____ towards his own _____ and makes Abel the object of his frustration. Gen. 4: 6-8
4. This first recorded conflict is an example of how human relationships still function even _____, years later, and one should keep this in mind when dealing with _____.

II. JESUS TEACHING ON HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS:

A. His First Sermon:

1. In Jesus' first public sermon, also known as the Sermon on the Mount, He taught several _____ of human relationships that promote _____ and harmony. Mt. 5:7
2. Jesus Himself is known as the Prince of _____ and He taught that the people who are the true children of God are the ones who seek to promote and make _____ instead of conflict. Mt. 5:9
3. In this same sermon, Jesus _____ that His children must have a different approach to dealing with other people who cause us problems, and that is to _____ them. Mt. 5:43-46
4. This approach is contrary to human _____, which in its fallen state is always seeking revenge upon anyone who dares to _____ us in any way. Mt. 5:38,39

B. Human Conflicts:

1. Jesus knew that there would be conflicts that would _____ even between His own disciples and the others who would be born again so He also _____ with this in His teachings. Mt.18:15
2. The plan and vision of Jesus was for His people to be the _____ of the world to shine in the darkness of this sinful world and to be also the _____ of the earth to flavor the society with the influence of righteousness, but it would have to be demonstrated among His own people first. Mk. 9:50

III. SOURCES OF HUMAN CONFLICTS:

A. Selfishness:

1. To be selfish is putting "me first" in our thinking, our feelings and our _____, and when we perceive that someone is getting in our _____ of us getting our own _____ then we react by lashing out at the individual or individuals. Ja. 4:1,2
2. Jesus taught that the "me first" attitude would cause one to end up in _____ place and without the blessing of God upon one's _____ and future. Mt. 9:33-35

B. Fallen Human Nature:

1. We are all born with the fallen human nature that produces problems in the _____ and life of every individual on earth and the problems lead to many _____ among people and nations. Gal. 5:19-21
2. Notice the works of the fallen nature or the flesh also include the _____ that lead to human conflicts – hatred, variance (quarreling), emulations (malice towards others via competition), wrath (temper), strife (conflict), seditions (disunity and division) and envy (jealousy), all things that _____ the work of God generally and ourselves personally.

C. Wounded Spirits:

1. People who have been _____ physically, sexually, verbally, emotionally or mentally end up with a wounded spirit and often have the _____ that are painful and sensitive. Pr. 18:14
2. Wounded and hurting _____ often end up hurting other people themselves because they are in a place of inner turmoil and they will take out their frustrations on those _____ them.

IV. DEALING WITH HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS:

A. Through Jesus Christ:

1. The first step to dealing with human relationships and conflicts is to be _____ again and when one is filled with the Spirit of God, it begins to _____ the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22,23
2. Spiritual healing is a reality and Jesus Christ announced that He came to _____ broken hearts and set free people who were bruised by other _____ and circumstances of life. Lk. 4:18

B. Applying Effort With The Word & Spirit:

1. It takes effort and self-denial to live in harmony with _____, especially those who have not been _____ again, and yet Jesus wants His children to _____ their lights in the dark world. Rom. 12:18
2. Our own heart must be clean and free of malice and bitterness if we are going to _____ to please God, otherwise, we will find ourselves in constant _____ with people. James 3:13-16
3. Some people become like hermits and isolate themselves in order to _____ conflict but this is not how Jesus designed His church, we are called to be a _____ of His body, the church. I Cor. 14:26
4. We have to make a _____ to either be filled with self and be in conflicts with others or to be filled with the Spirit and wisdom of Christ and be _____ and _____ and sow peace everywhere. Ja. 3:17,18

CONCLUSION: May we strive to be more like _____ and less like our carnal selves to promote peace.