

CONNECTED

WHERE LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN



New International Version is used for questions

1. Read Matthew 6:43-48. Pastor Rick said that how we respond to people when we are offended reveals how much we are connected to Christ, why is this true?
2. Read James 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:31,32; and Colossians 3:13. What are the four baits that we allow to cause conflict with other people? Is it sinful when we experience one of these? When does it become sinful? What must we learn to do when we experience one of these so that it does not lead us into sinful responses?
3. Read Matthew 18:15-18. What are the four steps Pastor Rick gave to apply what this passage says? Have you ever actually applied what this passage says to do when dealing with a conflict with someone? What happened? Why is it hard for us to do these steps?
4. Pastor Rick said there are two bad ways people respond to conflict: the avoider and the exploder. What is the avoider's motto? The exploder's motto? What are the bad effects that come from each type? Which type do you tend to be?
5. What does it mean to hold a grudge? Have you ever held a grudge against a person? What was the effect? What does it cause in the person who holds the grudge? Read Hebrews 12:14,15. What does this passage warn against? How does becoming bitter "defile many"?
6. Pastor Rick said: "You can do everything right and the other person still may not respond right". What must we do when this happens? What three things should you not try to do?

connected to the way Christ would act if he were here. We should respond to people who offend us the way Christ would.

2. *The four baits are: a. offenses; b. hurts; c. frustrations and d. misunderstandings. It is not sinful to have these feelings, but it becomes sinful when we allow these feelings to control the way we respond to people. We must learn to do two things in order to not allow these feelings to become sinful: a. Forgive people for what they do that offends us and b. Trust God to deal with them and not take revenge on them for when they offend us.*
3. *The four steps are a. Tell them privately; b. Add good, objective moderators; c. Let the appropriate church leaders know; and d. Keep a healthy distance until God intervenes.*
4. *Avoider motto: a. Stay silent; b. Keep being the peacekeeper; and c. Say it's fine when it's not. Exploder motto: a. Lash out; b. Escalate intensity; c. Speak without thinking. The bad effects of the avoider is that it damages them because nothing is ever resolved. The bad effects of the exploder is that it hurts and offends the person that the explosion is aimed at.*
5. *Holding a grudge is simply being unwilling to forgive a person. Holding a grudge leads to becoming bitter towards a person and bitterness defiles everyone around the person holding the grudge because bitterness is contagious and it spills out on everyone around the bitter person.*
6. *When someone does not respond correctly to you when you do everything right you need to let them go and trust God to deal with them. You should never try to control them; do not try to fix them; and do not try to change them. Only God can do those things.*