

## CONFLICT CASE STUDY

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I truly enjoyed watching Rick Warren's "Resolving Conflict" video. I watched it once in class and once again on my own and I was able to pick up even more information than I did the first time. I love how he expounded on when we sow one seed, that we get back more than what we put in; which encourages me to sow of the Spirit as opposed to of the sinful nature. I also loved how he broke down how unresolved conflict blocks fellowship with God, blocks our prayers from being answered, and blocks our happiness. I can personally relate to these truths. And finally, the "Seven Steps of Peacemaking" are a priceless commodity that I'll be coming back to time and time again as I walk God's green earth. These steps are crucial in all sorts of relationships: Marriages, friendships, business relationships, etc... I would have salvaged relationships that I valued in the past had I taken the steps in this message. But I'm glad that I was able to practice these steps in my life today with someone in my triad in class.

I had an issue with one of my triad members in our class. This person's behavior at times really got under my skin. I would get so irritated with him, but I would keep it all to myself. I just kept it cordial and did not speak much to him at all. But after being in the triad with him and getting to know more about him, I was able to see another side. And there was one time in our triad that God gave me an open door to finally confess my heart with him, and I was able to follow these steps. I took the first step; which is step number one in the seven step process.

I don't remember if I asked God for wisdom per se, but I know I did ask God, silently in my mind, to help me articulate my heart to him (which is another way of asking for wisdom I guess). That was the second step. I took the third step by confessing my fault in the matter; which was being judgemental towards him. He confessed that he sensed that from me for some time, but he never said anything. We listened to each other as we went into the situation more; which was step number four. We were both able to open up and hear each other's side of the

story. We did this without arguing and catching an attitude with each other. Then, step five, I was able to speak the truth in love to him, and he was actually receptive to the issues I had with him. He also confessed that he recognized these behavior patterns in himself that he constantly gets critiqued about by quite a few other people in his life. He's not always aware of it, but it's something he's working on as he continues on his journey in Christ. The beautiful thing about step five is that I was able to honestly speak about the issue that bothered me the most without pointing the finger at him. It was truly speaking the truth in love. We spoke brother to brother in these moments and I truly valued it.

In regards to step six "Fix the Problem, Not the Blame", I believe that I did fix the problem. The problem wasn't his behavior though. The problem was my response to his behavior. I was able to adjust without keeping it bottled up. He knows that I have an issue with certain things, but love covers a multitude of sins the Bible says, and I was able to love my brother and myself, as we both grow on our journey with the Lord. For that I am grateful because it's what Christ does with us EVERY SINGLE DAY!!! I need to love more like Jesus and one thing Rick Warren said was, "...*One thing God wants you to learn is HOW to love...*". That statement stuck out to me and I desire to hold on to it and live it out.

Lastly, step seven is "Focus on Reconciliation, not Resolution"; which is so important. We did re-establish our relationship and to this day, even though he still displays certain behaviors I'm not too fond of, I'm still able to accept him for who he is – a man who Jesus loves and died for. I'm so grateful that we were able to resolve that conflict. And I'm thankful that I was able to walk out the beatitude of being a peacemaker and taste the fruit of reconciliation. Thank You, Jesus!