

Biblical Reconciliation: Going Beyond Peace-Making

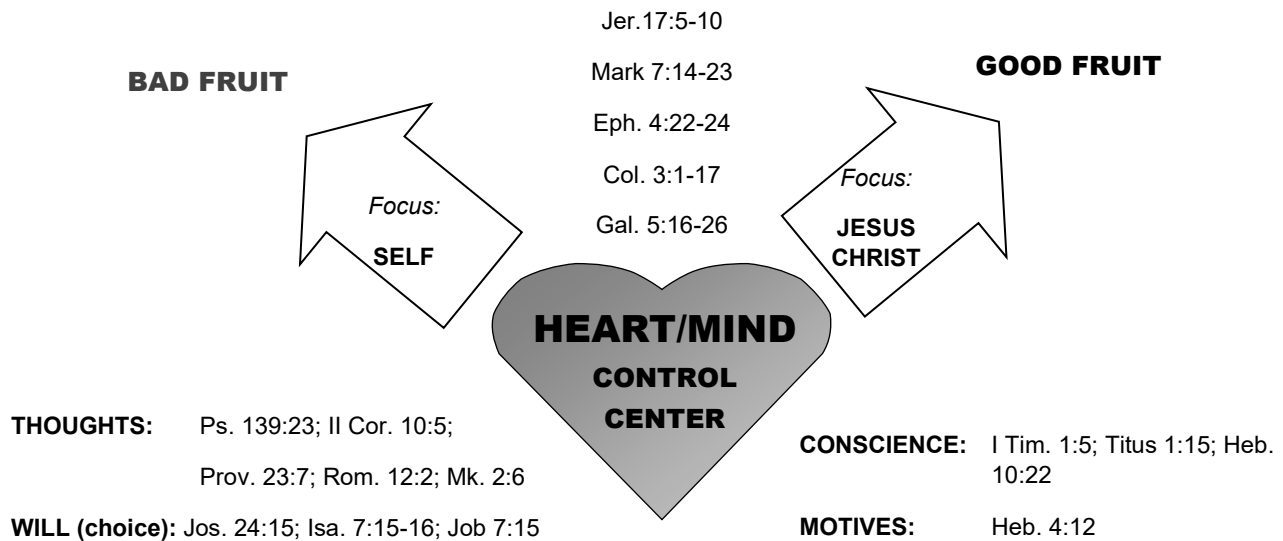
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1 GETTING TO THE HEART OF CONFLICT

Every conflict within the church presents the pastor with a great teaching opportunity. Because every conflict within the church is a reminder of how much Christ is needed. The source of all conflict begins in the heart (James 4:1-3) with its cravings and dominant desires which fuel anger, slander and violent reactions. It denies the truth and grace of gospel in the Christian life because it positions itself in pride.

A. A Look at the Problem of Sin as It Affects Worship of the Heart in Conflict

1. The Location - The Heart (Gen.6:5; Matt.22:34-40; Prov.4:23; Mk.7:20-23; I Sam.16:7; Ps.111:1; Prov.23:7)



Man's Control Center

2. The Occupation – Worship (Ex.20:1-6; Rom.12:1; Jer.2:13; I Kings 18:21; Matt.12:34; Jos.24:14-20; Rom.6:16; Matt.6:21)

3. The Frustration – Idolatry / Lust (I Kings 11:4; Ezk.14:1-11; Rom.1:25; I Cor.10:1-14)
 - a) Wanting or desiring something that God does not want or desire

 - b) Wanting something that God wants or desires but wanting it so much that one becomes ungodly to get it or ungodly if they don't

 - c) Being controlled by expectations and becoming ungodly in thought, word, or deed when the expectation is not realized

 - d) Perceiving a deserved right and following through with ungodly thoughts, words, and actions to try to get it when that right is denied

 - e) Believing in something, a standard or rule, that is not of God and that leads to ungodly practices

 - f) Having a mindset that is against the truth of God's Word, that leads to ungodliness in thoughts, words, and actions

4. The Regeneration — versus Rehabilitation
 - a) The Gospel and its counterfeit, the psychologized gospel

 - b) Rom.10:8-10; Matt.7:21-23; Eph.3:17

5. The Transformation - The Renewing of the Mind / Heart
 - a) This is a battle (war) (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22; II Cor.10:5) - into Christlikeness

 - b) Rom.8:28-29; II Cor.3:18; Gal.4:19, Eph.4:13-15; Col.1:17; 3:10

6. The Glorification - Christ's Return (Rom.8:18-25,30; I Cor.15:50-58)

7. Summary and Conclusion

- a) Pray daily (Psalm 139:23-24)
- b) Ask yourself:
 - (1) What are my goals, expectations, or intentions?
 - (2) What do I become anxious over or fearful over?
 - (3) What makes me happy?
 - (4) What motivates me?
 - (5) What would I like, possibly more than anything?
 - (6) In what situation do I respond in anger?
 - (7) What perceived right(s) has been denied?
 - (8) What biblical standard or principle permits that thought, word, or action?
- c) Write down how that particular idol/lust is worshipped in thought, word, and deed.
- d) Acknowledge what it is and confess it as a sin of idolatry.
- e) Ask forgiveness from God and whomever is a part of the worship process.
- f) Study God's character to examine how your view of God is skewed. Do an in-depth study on the character and attributes of God that are directly involved in this area of change.
- g) Be ready to learn how to replace idol/lust worship with the worship of God.