



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Picture perfect

Lamentations 3:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Lamentations 3:21-23 (NIV) ²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

B. Have the right focus

- Change focus from the past to the future
- We focus on finding "the one"

C. Keep the main thing the main thing

- **God is your One and your spouse is your two.**

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

II. THE NEED FOR RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS IS REAL

A. In our lives there is a series of relationships

1 Corinthians 12:21 (NKJV) And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

The major portion of the Lord's ministry in your life will come through relationships with other people.

Question – How many have every experienced conflict in a relationship?

- Two types of people
 - **Confronters** - you want to talk, argue, debate and get your point across but you're more likely to shut people down or be ignored
 - **Avoiders** – You want people to get along and be a peacekeeper but you're likely to get steam rolled and end up frustrated

B. The #1 reason we have conflict is because we're all human beings

Because we think that all conflict is bad we tend to think that there's either something wrong with me or them



The goal isn't to avoid conflict and the goal isn't to learn how to win the battle. The goal is to handle conflict properly

C. Our emotions can be an ally or a stumbling block

- We don't see things as "they" are – but instead as "we" are

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT) ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

D. We view life through filters – emotion, experience, influences, some healthy some not

- Your brain is designed to help you arrive at a conclusion

The #1 mistake we make is to assume that we know the motive of the other person

Once you begin to assume motive, conflict can take on a whole new dimension and you will become the prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner

IV. HOW DO YOU FLIP THE SCRIPT FROM ASSUMING YOU KNOW TO SEEKING TO KNOW

James 1:19-20 (NLT) ^{19 a} Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen,

Proverbs 21:23 (NLT) ²³ Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.

1. Drop the but

James 1:19 (NLT) ... ^{19 b} Slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

2. Be willing to admit you might be wrong

Proverbs 18:2 (NLT) ² Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

3. Be willing to change

Proverbs 13:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept correction, you will be honored.



CHRISTIAN CENTER

Picture Perfect

Part 2
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Out of Focus



Philippians 3:12 (NLT) ¹²I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV) ¹²Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

1 Peter 4:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." ⁹Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.