



THE BRAVE:
Courageous Hearts in a Broken World
“Brave Enough to Engage Conflict”

Pastor Derwin Gray
May 11-12, 2013

1. Open in prayer.
2. What do you think of Pastor Derwin’s statement, “Healthy, mature Christ-followers do not avoid conflict. They learn how to engage conflict with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”?
3. Look at the chart below and discuss it:

MANAGING & RESOLVING CONFLICT

UNHEALTHY	HEALTHY
An inability to recognize and respond to the things that matter to the other person	The capacity to recognize and respond to the things that matter to the other person
Explosive, angry, hurtful, and resentful reactions	Calm , non-defensive, and respectful reactions
The withdrawal of love, resulting in rejection, isolation, shaming, and fear of abandonment	A readiness to forgive and forget, and to move past the conflict without holding resentment or anger
An inability to compromise or see the other person’s side	The ability to seek compromise and avoid punishing
The fear and avoidance of conflict; the expectation of bad outcomes	A belief that facing conflict head on is the best thing for both sides

http://www.helpguide.org/mental/eq8_conflict_resolution.htm

4. Here’s where the power comes from to engage conflict – Read Ephesians 2:14-18
 - The Apostle Paul was writing to the multi-ethnic churches of Ephesus (modern-day Turkey). These churches were experiencing conflict that arose from the church being comprised of both Jews and Gentiles (Africans, Greeks, Romans, Asians, etc.) The Apostle Paul in essence is saying, “Church, you engage conflict and resolve it with each other because you have peace with God the Father through Jesus! Because we have peace vertically, we have peace internally and

horizontally, if we extend the Gospel to one another. Because we connect vertically to God of heaven, His heavenly power can be released through us to one another to resolve conflict.”

- According to Ephesians 2:14, who is our “peace”?
 - Who did Jesus unite in “one people”? What does this practically mean to us? (See Ephesians 2:14) *Hint this is why TC is a multi-ethnic church.
 - In Verse 16, Jesus reconciles Jews and Gentiles in “one body.” What does that mean? How should we see and relate to other Christ-followers?
5. Discuss Pastor Derwin’s statement, “Because we have peace with God, we can attempt to have peace with one another.”
 6. Spend some time elaborating on this statement: “When we’re willing to engage conflict for the sake of reconciliation, we’re loving God by loving people”?

Soul-tattoo: Pray for one another to have the courage in Christ to engage conflict in a mature, Jesus-honoring life.

CALENDAR

May 25-26

Baby & Child Dedication