

ISSUES:

Difficulties and Conflicts

2 Corinthians 6:1 *As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.*

Lesson: Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

- What is or was the ultimate conflict in our lives?

1 Timothy 2:5-6 – *For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, Jesus Christ, Himself human, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.* Our relationship with God was broken through our sin nature. We were separated from God and He made a way for reconciliation. He did the work to restore that relationship. It is amazing to think that He would take the time or bother to think of me. Verse 4 in that same chapter says that He wants all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. It's easy to recognize my desire for God, but sometimes it's harder to wrap my head around the fact that He desires to have a relationship with me. So much so, that when it is broken, He works to restore it – even to the point of sending His only Son to die when I deserved to. His grace and mercy resolved the conflict between Him and us if we will only accept it. He continues His work to restore our relationship even after we accept salvation and continues to draw us closer to Him.

- What should our response be to the resolution of that conflict?

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 – *As God's co-workers, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.* Don't wait! Now is the time! God has done the work to restore our relationship and we should respond by not wasting a moment in responding to Him and taking advantage of the gift that He is offering. To be reconciled with God, to have our relationship restored and to be assured of eternity with Him, to continue growing closer to Him ...and then we get to tell others about the wonderful work that He has done in our lives. In 1 Timothy 2:7 Paul tells us that is the reason he was appointed by God as a herald and an apostle. We have all been appointed as heralds and apostles – to tell others about Jesus!

- What conflicts do we continue to face?

Allow people to share what is going on in their lives. Paul talks in 2 Thessalonians 2 about disagreements the church was facing as some said that the day of the Lord had already come. How would you feel if somebody told you that the Rapture had already taken place and you missed it? Create a little conflict in your life?

- What motivates our responses and what should they be?

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 – *With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* We should pray for each other motivated by a desire for goodness and faith so that God gets glory. 2 Thessalonians 1:4 talks about a church that was an example to other churches as they persevered by faith thru trials. Look at 1 Timothy 1. He was sent to build relationships as a way to resolve conflict. It looks like Paul sent Timothy out to start the first small groups!

Daily Devotional Reading:

- Day #1: 2 Thessalonians 1
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #2: 2 Thessalonians 2
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #3: 2 Thessalonians 3
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #4: 1 Timothy 1
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #5: 1 Timothy 2
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word: