

Jesus Is Not Canadian

Pastor Matt Garvin

Mark 12:18-27 NIV

Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. Now about the dead rising---have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!"

Resurrection life is _____ to our current experience.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NIV

A peacemaker _____, while a peacekeeper _____ . (Matthew 5:9 NIV, James 3:17-18 NIV)

When we want to be really hospitable we not only have to receive strangers but also confront them by an unambiguous presence, not hiding ourselves behind neutrality but showing our ideas, opinions and lifestyle clearly and distinctly. No real dialogue is possible between somebody and a nobody. We can enter into communication with the other only when our own life, choices, attitudes and viewpoints offer the boundaries that challenge strangers to become aware of their own position and to explore it critically.

~ Henry Nouwen, Reaching Out

Healthy Conflict

1. _____
2. What _____ in this conflict?
(What do I see the issue to be? What are my feelings?)

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19-20 NIV

3. What _____ in this conflict?
(What would they see the issue to be? What are their feelings?)

"A good listener tries to understand what the other person is saying. In the end he may disagree sharply, but because he disagrees, he wants to know exactly what it is he is disagreeing with."

~ Kenneth A. Wells

4. _____ and _____ Jesus's mind, in light of the core issues, as to what Shalom looks like in this instance.
5. _____ as an ambassador.

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 NIV

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Small Group Questions

1. The Sadducees, though followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were obviously coming at this discussion with Jesus from an altogether different point of view. When have you engaged in conversations/conflicts with others (be it in the church or outside) where it was evident that they were coming at things from a distinctly different viewpoint/understanding?
2. Are you more naturally inclined to "keep the peace" by quelling conflict or "peacemaking" by engaging in conflict with God's heart and mind? Give an example.
3. Read the quote that Pastor Matt shared from Henry Nouwen. What aspects of this quote do you find hard to relate to or challenging?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15 out loud. How should the picture that is painted of the resurrection affect our day-to-day lives?
5. Name a conflict that you think you may need to engage in this coming week, utilizing the steps that Pastor Matt highlighted. Pray for one another in this regard and perhaps share about how things go in the coming week(s).