

THIS IS **US**

Learning How the Church Connects as a Family

Dr. Gary VanDeWalker
Evangelical Free Church of Mount Shasta
Spring 2017
04-30-17

This is Us:

We connect through Conflict

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Our Conflicts:

Our expectations is to have no conflicts from one another

We seek protection through avoidance

God and Conflict:

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:7

The Law

Romans 6:13-14

The Cross

Colossians 1:19-20

Fellowship through Conflict:

Conflict is unavoidable, we are broken people

Put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience

So you can bear with one another, hearing complaints, and forgive like God forgives

Crucial conversations

The art of listening

Watch your tongue, don't speak evil of others

James 4:11-12

Eph. 4:29

Putting on love is the key

Resolution begins in the smallest circles

Using Church leadership in conflict

Galatians 6:1

Do everything in His name

We are offended. We sin. We forgive. We hold grudges. We avoid. We pursue. We misunderstand. We listen. We ignore. We confront. We yell and scream. We whisper. We are silent. We are stubborn. We are graceful. We are impatient. We wait. We live in the shadow of the Cross.