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SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday May 7th, 2017

PASTOR DAVID COOKE: CONFLICT

- **The Price We Pay for Deep Relationships**

" _____ is the _____ we pay for a deeper level of _____." - Les and Leslie Parrott

Have you taken the Parrott's Deep Love Assessment? You can take the Deep Love Assessment for \$35 per couple at Outreach.deeploveassessment.com.

- **Conflict vs. Peace**

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." Ronald Reagan

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).



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- **Good Fights vs. Bad Fights**

- A. All fights are not created _____.
- B. The line separating good fights from bad is not _____.
- C. The Bible gives us guidelines for the good and bad of conflict.

Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 15:18

	BAD FIGHT	GOOD FIGHT
Goal	Winning the fight	Resolving the fight
Topic	Surface issues	Underlying issues
Emphasis	Personalities	Ideas and issues
Attitude	Confrontational and defensive	Cooperative and receptive
Motivation	Shift blame	Take responsibility
Mode	Belittle	Respect
Manner	Egocentric	Empathic
Demeanor	Self-righteous	Understanding
Side Effect	Escalation of tension	Easing of tension
Result	Discord	Harmony
Benefit	Stagnation and distance	Growth and intimacy



- **How do you have a good fight?**

ONE: Watch your _____ and _____ of voice.
Proverbs 15:1

TWO: Learn to control your anger so that it doesn't control you and cause you to sin.
Ephesians 4:26

THREE: A good fight works toward timely resolution and forgiveness.
Ephesians 4:26

- **Pride vs. Humility**

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace" (Proverbs 11:2).

"For if anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves" (Galatians 6:3).

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (James 4:6).



- **Pride leads to destruction.**

1. WHAT IS YOUR "BAR OF SOAP" IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP?
2. Self-centered pride is at the heart of every bad fight.

- **The Antidote to Unhealthy Pride**

- _____

- **Some Questions...**

- A. Who do you have unresolved conflict with today?
- B. What relationship is wasting away because you are avoiding conflict rather than fighting a good fight?
- C. What relationship has been hurt because of a bad fight?
- D. Where do you need to set aside your pride and be reconciled to someone you care for?

- **Conflict is the price we pay for deeper intimacy.**

- **The Big Action:** Who are you going to meet with and when to step into greater intimacy through conflict?

Answers: conflict, price, intimacy, equal, fuzzy, tongue, tone, humility,



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