



JEANNE MAYO'S

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GUY MEETS GUY...GIRL MEETS GIRL

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## Guy Meets Guy...Girl Meets Girl

*[LEADER'S NOTE: On nights where we are dealing with a sensitive topic, we do not give abbreviated "fill-in the blank notes" to students before the message. Instead, we choose to give out the notes in detail at the END of the night.]*

Some of you secretly desire to hear what I have to say tonight. But, you're afraid to let other people know just how interested you are in this topic. It's because you are afraid of what other people will think.

I'm really sorry. It shouldn't be that way. I'm sad that the church world does such a rotten job of communicating on homosexual and lesbian tendencies. We seem to go to one of two extremes. We either preach so hard against sin that people who are struggling in this area feel like they have to go "underground," or we awkwardly ignore the whole discussion. We make it a dirty little secret that no one addresses. Even worse, we make "gay jokes" and... "Oh, that's so gay!" or "Are you gay?" kind of statements. And, then wonder why people struggling in this arena have so much hesitancy to turn to the church. I've been privileged to connect closely with young men and women who found themselves struggling to figure out their sexual identity. So, though I am a million miles from an expert on this subject, allow me tonight to share a few "bottom lines." It's my honest hope that my realness could be helpful to a few of you who are desperate for some answers but have nowhere to turn.

### **01. Yes, I believe the Bible does clearly tell us that same-sex relationships are a sin.**

I think that's Scripturally very clear. But once again, Christ sincerely loves the person, even though He is brokenhearted over the sin. Because some of you may not have really realized that God speaks on this subject, I'll read you a couple of verses on it...

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 1:26-28, "For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.

One other thought is that God clearly defines sexual activity outside of marriage as sin...and my simple question to you is, how does God define marriage? In Matthew 19:4 and several other passages, God says it's between a man and a woman. He doesn't define it any other way.

### **02. No, I don't believe that people are "born gay." I do, however, believe that some people are "wired" personality-wise in a fashion that makes it easier for them to lean in that direction.**

Children pop out of their mom's womb with different temperaments and sensitivities. Thus, though I deeply believe that children are not "born gay," I do think some people find it easier to fall into homosexual patterns than others.

I think the same thing could be said of nearly any sin pattern we could mention. I, myself, have a very “everything or nothing” personality, which makes me an easy candidate for serious alcoholism. No, I’ve not allowed that to happen. I choose not to drink alcohol at all. But I realize that my personality-bent makes me an easy target for compromise in that area. In like manner, I think some personalities are an easier target for homosexual compromise.

### **03. Just because you have had same-sex fantasies (or even compromised in a same sex relationship) does not mean you’re gay.**

The Word of God talks about how fear can be used by the Enemy to tie us to something negative in our lives. (“The thing I greatly feared has come upon me,” Job 3:25 NKJV.) That’s why it’s so crucial to break this fear-focus.

Please allow yourself to breathe a deep sigh of relief. Those feelings and temptations do not have to seal your future destiny. Only your choices will do that.

But what if you found those same-sex relationships secretly pleasurable? Once again, the Enemy attempts to energize all forms of sin in our lives. Your emotional and sensual reactions to those moments do not determine if you are gay. Only your personal, daily choices do that.

Let’s use me for example. Let’s pretend that I decided to go out drinking one weekend so I could forget about my pressures. Maybe I even enjoyed the experience so much that I wound up going home that night really plastered. (Some of you are really laughing at the thought of me being plastered!) At any rate, none of that would make me an alcoholic. Not my choice that night. Not even my secret enjoyment. Only my repeated choice to give in to that pattern would make me an alcoholic. The parallels are obvious. So stop listening to the Enemy’s lies. On the other hand, realize that every single time you give into temptation, the Enemy’s stronghold in your life tightens its grip.

### **04. A person is neither born totally homosexual or totally heterosexual (though obviously, the male or female sexual identity is clearly established at birth).**

In truth, human sexuality is a little more like a balance scale. That balance scale is affected by your natural temperament like we already said. But all sorts of life experiences (both positive and negative) also help to lean that scale further in one direction or another. That’s why certain factors in your upbringing or painful rejections can make this whole issue worse. Life, through various circumstances, seems to lean your balance scale more heavily towards one side or the other. As always, though, Christ gives you the ultimate power to determine the outcome of those circumstances.

Years ago, healthy American families were the bedrock for stable sexual development. Dads and moms worked together to create a loving, secure environment for their children. This kind of consistency and role-modeling made it easy for the balance scale to develop and tip in the appropriate direction. Unfortunately, now families are often splintered and unhealthy. Their positive impact on the development of a healthy sexual identity is often watered down, at best.

## **05. We live in an over-sexed world.**

It's little wonder that such a high percentage of today's youth culture struggles with sexual balance and purity. With constant images on the media and the internet glorifying same-sex relationships, fantasy-driven temptation is at an all-time high. Suggestive same-sex images line the walls of almost every contemporary clothing store and flaunt sensuality in order to sell their clothing. So with all these influences, why would we be surprised by a rise in sexual identity issues? We're unisexing everything.

## **06. If you have ever been taken advantage of by someone in your life when you were younger, the mind games can be especially huge.**

Please know that those mind games are just that—only mental games energized by the Enemy to try to throw you off track. Whatever happened was not your fault. Yes, some painful memories and baggage may probably remain, but Christ wants to be way bigger than all that junk in your life. You alone decide if you are a victim or a victor.

On the other hand, don't be secretly frightened if a part of you found some of those earlier experiences more pleasurable than you want to admit. Again, this is just another deception of the Enemy. You are not gay. Your pleasure came from a sense of emotional closeness and from the Enemy's sexually-charged trap at the moment. Refuse to believe the secret lies he whispers in your mind.

## **07. Again, I'm so sorry. The Church's unwillingness to "roll up our sleeves" and help sincere people with this challenge leaves them isolated, lonely and very vulnerable.**

Oftentimes, we force individuals to suffer silently with absolutely no help or support from any Christians around them. Unlike people struggling with many other vulnerabilities, they feel that they can tell no one nor reach out for help. They quietly remain isolated and vulnerable without Christ-honoring friendship or support.

Thus, it is easy to understand why some of these sincere individuals slowly let the lies of the Enemy become louder and louder in their own minds. That's probably why Christ had me share on this subject with you tonight—so you could hear Christ's truth in place of the deafening lies that scream inside your mind.

Some websites that will help if these concerns are significant for you: [www.exodus-international.org](http://www.exodus-international.org) and [www.syrogers.com](http://www.syrogers.com)

## **A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH THESE CHALLENGES**

Let me give a few loving suggestions to my friends who might find themselves in this painful dilemma:

### **01. Again, realize that Christ had me share this message with you tonight as a love note to YOU.**

Cheesy as it might sound, He wants you to understand every word that I share tonight as His attempt to break through the lies you have been fearing in your own mind.

You are not gay. Yes, the awkwardness and temptations may be there. Yes, you may have even given into this temptation before.

But please realize that these circumstances in themselves do not make you a homosexual or a lesbian. I have many amazing spiritual friends who have experienced everything we are talking about. But they have chosen to fan the positive, Christ-honoring desires and voices in their lives. And as a result, they live an incredibly fulfilled, happy life today of sexual wholeness and freedom.

## **02. Read and memorize Scriptures that talk specifically about freedom from sexual temptation.**

The same principles that bring freedom in any area sexually will help you now. Be especially aware of the strength of God's Word to bring growing power and wholeness to you. All along the journey, keep choosing to "feed your faith and doubt your doubts."

## **03. Be especially honest with yourself about the impact of media on your life.**

Only you will be able to accurately know your personal fuse-shorteners. But person after person has shared with me and others that their struggle became much more agonizing as they fanned it via the internet, certain movies, magazines, etc.

## **04. If a same-sex relationship becomes secretly appealing to you, have the self-discipline to distance yourself from that relationship.**

Try to avoid spending long amounts of time together, being alone, taking trips alone, etc. Use the same common-sense guidelines you would use if you found yourself attracted to a person of the opposite sex and wanted to walk in purity.

Whatever you do, do not discuss or even hint to that person about your possible feelings of attraction. Try not to let the Enemy bring this topic to your mind often. When Satan does bring it up, mentally answer him with a Scripture like, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4 KJV)

Remember that whatever you focus on, you fuel. So try not to give the Enemy much "fuel" in this arena. Don't feel that you need to date or marry someone to "prove that you're OK." Some of the healthiest people I know live such full lives that they are presently choosing to neither date nor marry. That's absolutely A-OK! Don't buy into this culture's twisted value system.

You're fine as an individual. You don't have to be "locked at the hip" to someone else to be viewed as normal. At the right time, God will bring someone into your life if marriage is a desire He fans in your heart. Get busy creating a life of purpose, friendship and fulfillment for yourself. Put your emotional and mental focus on the positive, Christ-honoring things in life. Don't let this subject or secret fear consume you. Remember? The Bible says that "Whatever a man continues to think about, he slowly becomes." (Prov. 23:7, paraphrase) So get your mind busy in different directions.

## **05. Deal honestly with EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY. That often becomes the doorway to sexual temptation.**

Emotional dependency is when another individual becomes TOO IMPORTANT to your own personal sense of happiness and fulfillment. Instead of Jesus Christ really being our "Most Important Need-Meeter," this other person becomes our security and happiness.

Emotional dependency is probably taking place in a relationship when either person in the friendship:

- \* often prefers to spend time alone with this friend and becomes very frustrated when this does not regularly happen
- \* loses any significant interest in most other friendships
- \* works to weaken other friendships that might in some way be viewed as “competition”
- \* displays emotional and/or physical affection for another person that is not normal in friendship
- \* becomes defensive and/or secretive when anyone hints that perhaps the two people are spending too much time together or developing relational-bonds that are not totally healthy
- \* becomes overly concerned with the other person’s problems, interests or life in general

Breaking off with an unhealthy relationship will be deeply painful. The sheer pain of the experience reinforces that the friendship was not truly Christ-honoring and healthy in the first place.

## **06. After you break away from the other person, prepare for a season of grief, depression and/or manipulation.**

You make the process even more agonizing by slipping back into the relationship periodically. So don’t allow yourself to “go in and out” of the relationship when you become “emotionally hungry.” This is both unfair to the other person and also a sure recipe for disaster. You gave away too much of yourself emotionally before, so backing away will come with pain and possible manipulation games. Have enough integrity not to give in.

## **07. Prioritize wholehearted participation in a healthy church family.**

Many of your emotional, friendship and spiritual needs will be met while enjoying the fun and the fulfillment of great Christian friends. Remember: “The lone ranger is often a dead ranger.” So don’t try to do the Christian life alone.

Most of all, remind yourself often that Jesus loves you so much that He prompted me to share this message with you tonight! This isn’t exactly...politically correct speaking material. But the Lord so badly wanted you to know that you’re OK and that you’re not locked into a gay lifestyle that He prompted me to share this.

Please allow tonight to be a private love gift from Jesus to you. I mean that so sincerely. It’s no coincidence that you came tonight. Jesus so deeply loves and believes in you and wants to free you from your dirty little secrets!

## Girl Meets Girl

Jordan Marcon and Alissa Pickens

Props needed for scene: One side of stage needs to be a kitchen. In this scene you'll need a table with two chairs, a cereal bowl with a spoon and a couple of glasses or mugs. On the opposite side of the scene, a bed with all the linens, a pillow and a journal. A cell phone is also needed for this scene.

(scene opens in the kitchen – lights come up to the mom setting the table for breakfast, after a couple of seconds the daughter walks in)

Mom: Morning sweetie – how did you sleep?

Daughter (appearing tired and uninterested): Fine.

Mom: You were out kind of late last night. I turned in about midnight and you still weren't home. What were you up to?

Daughter: Me and Rachel were hanging out.

Mom: You and Rachel? Honey, I thought we talked about Rachel. I thought we discussed that you weren't going to be hanging out with her as much.

Daughter: Yeah, but I don't see what the big deal is, she's my best friend.

Mom: I know baby, but it's not healthy to hang out with one person as much as you and Rachel have been hanging out. What about Kristen? The girl from the cheerleading squad. You two used to hang out all the time. Whatever happened to her or some of the girls from the squad?

Daughter: I don't get along with Kristen...or any of those girls. I'm not like those girls.

Mom: Oh, I have an idea. I met this young man, he's the son of one of my co-workers and I was thinking that you and your sister could go on a double date! Wouldn't that be so much fun!

Daughter: No, it wouldn't be any fun! Mom, I'm not my sister! Can't you see that!

Mom: I know baby, but I'm just worried...

Daughter (interrupts): No...you don't get it! Gosh you don't understand me! None of you do! I'm not like you. I'm not like my sister. I'm not like other girls. Can't you just deal with that!

(storms out of room)

(black out – lights back up on bedroom scene)

Daughter (plops down on bed and begins to make a phone call): Please answer, please answer!

Girl off stage on microphone: Hi, this is Rachel, sorry I can't answer right now, but leave me a message!

Daughter (hangs phone up and throws it down): Rachel! Where are you when I need you...why can't you answer right now!

(flips over and pulls out her journal and begins to journal – is reading the following lines as she writes)

Daughter: I can't stand my mom. She doesn't get me. Nobody understands me, except Rachel. Why can't she just accept me for who I am? I'm not like other girls. I'm not my sister. So many things go through my mind, but I can't tell anyone, at least anyone but Rachel.

I wish my mom would just leave me alone. She's always trying to get me to be someone I don't want to be. Who cares if I don't want to get dressed up all the time? Who cares if I'm not a cheerleader? Can't I just be me? I wish she would understand that.

(phone rings) (looks at phone and sees it's Rachel)

Daughter: Oh, thank goodness!

(picks up phone)

Daughter: Hey girl. I'm so glad you called!

(after each line there is a pause as if Rachel is talking on the other end of the cell phone)

Yeah, me and my mom got into another argument. I really need to see you. I really need to talk. Can we meet?

Yeah. Twenty minutes sounds good. I'll meet you at our spot.

Ok, Rach, see ya there.

(she begins to walk out and lights out)

## Guy Meets Guy

Jordan Marcon

Props needed in this scene are a couch, pillow, remote control, coffee table, cell phone and any other items that might help the scene look as much like a living room as possible.

(Mark & Colin are on opposite sides of the stage. Lights come up first on Mark, then on Colin)

Mark: My name is Mark and there's not much to me, I guess. I'm just a normal guy and I've got family problems just like everyone else. I say family, I really mean, Dad problems. He's just never there for me. I really just want his attention, but I never get that. I always seek him so much...I just want him to say, hey, just hang out with me and stuff. But everytime I try, he's always got something to do. He's got more important stuff. So, I recently found a real good friend of mine. His name's Colin. Colin's a good guy, what can I say about him. He's everything I want. He's the coolest kid in class, he's got the coolest style, the coolest parents and even his dad has a great relationship with him. Man, how can you beat that. The craziest thing about it is, he just makes me feel important. All the unimportant things that my dad throws in my face and how he never even cares about me...like I'm just dirt in the wind. Colin makes me feel important. Makes me feel like somebody. I guess that's my story.

Colin: My name's Colin. I've got a pretty average life. Nothing going on too much. Not too complicated. There's some things I'm striving at in my life...want to get better at. I love sports, I walk around school and people know my name. No way I'm the most popular guy, but people know me. On the football field, man, I don't start. I made the team, but I'm more just like a glorified fan on the bench, just cheering my guys on and I love it. But there's one guy who makes me feel real special, his name's Mark. And he just makes me feel important, like I'm such a big deal. He gives me attention that some of the football guys don't give me. That's who I am.

(Scene 2 opens with one guy on a couch in a living room. The other guy is off stage but on a microphone.)

Colin (sitting on his couch talking on his cell phone): That's crazy man, I can't believe that happened!

Mark: Yeah, I know! And in class in front of everyone...it was awesome!

Colin (looks at his phone): Dude! Can you believe we've been talking for an hour and thirty-four minutes and fourteen seconds...fifteen...sixteen...

Mark: Wow! It definitely doesn't feel like that. It feels like we've only been talking for like a few minutes. That's the crazy thing about us...whenever we're talking it's like time flies.

Colin: I know! I'm not really a phone guy, but the past few nights we've talked it's been the same thing...we end up talking for like an hour or more, but it doesn't feel that long. What you doin' over there, man?

Mark: Not much, I'm just chillin'

Colin: Well why don't you come over here and chill tonight? Just pack some stuff, you can come spend the night, we'll throw in a movie. We'll just chill.

Mark: Yeah. That sounds fun. Give me like 20 or 25 minutes and I'll be there.

Colin: Ok...see ya soon, bye!

Mark: Bye!

(Lights stay up on scene. You see Colin hang up...then he sits there for a second...then he stands up and looks at himself. He realizes that he is not satisfied with the outfit he is wearing, so he starts changing into something that looks nicer. He begins to look at himself in the mirror. As he is looking into the mirror, the lights blackout.)

(Power Point slide reads: "TWENTY MINUTES LATER")

(Lights up) (Colin is sitting on the couch – you hear a "knock" or "doorbell") (Colin gets up and opens up door)

Colin: Hey, what's goin' on?

Mark: Not much going on! What are you doin'?

Colin: Hey, it seems like forever, where have you been? When's the last time I talked to you?

Mark: I'm just hanging out talking to this dude, you know. Good times, good times.

Colin: Oh man...it's been crazy, I've been talkin' to this weird guy, he calls me on the phone and we talk for like an hour and fifteen minutes, can you believe that? (they're both kind of laughing in a flirty way)

Mark: That's crazy.

(sets bag down to give his friend a hug)

Colin (hugs back): It's a good thing you came over. It gave me an excuse to get off the phone with him. What have you been up to, man?

Mark: Not too much. Me and my dad were supposed to hang out tonight, but you know how he is. I tried and he doesn't give me any time at all. What happened to you and your boys on the football team? I thought you were going out with them.

Colin: I was, but then I got this call and I decided that guy was more important. So I decided to come home and relax. He's a pretty cool guy.

Mark: Sounds good. Hey, I was thinking about this weekend, too. What are you doing Saturday night? We should hang out.

Colin: Yeah, that sounds fun. Actually, a bunch of the guys from the team are going out to CiCi's Saturday night. We should tag along with them.

Mark: Yeah, that would be cool. (kind of hesitant) Actually, I was thinking just you and I could hang out and do something...you know, the guys are cool, but I think it would be a lot more fun if just you and I hung out, downtown or something.

(jabbing him in the shoulder so it doesn't appear too be to awkward to his friend)

Colin: Um...ok...I'm down with that. (pauses) But why don't you want to hang with the guys?

Mark: I don't know. I guess I just don't always feel myself around them. I know this sounds crazy...but I just have so much fun with you. They don't understand me like you do. I think it would be a lot more fun if we just chilled.

Colin: I kinda feel the same way. You know what, I do know what you mean. I've noticed that too. Like we really connect. I like hanging out with the guys a lot, but a lot of that time, I think maybe just you and me could hang out more and spend that time just thinking about us.

Mark: I know exactly how you feel, all the stress of life. It's just cool, I appreciate that, for real, thank's for bein' my bud.

Colin: You just make me feel important and nobody else does. Hey, man, let's get that movie started.

(Instead of sitting on the opposite end of the couch, Mark chooses to sit in the center of the couch right next to his friend. It's obvious that he is leaving the other part of the couch empty to sit close to his friend!)

Mark: Sounds good to me!

(grabs a pillow and puts it on the lap of Colin...lays out on couch with his head on the pillow that is resting in his friend's lap)

### Guy Meets Guy...Girl Meets Girl

*[Leader's Note: This is a very sensitive issue, so we ask you to treat it that way. Depending on your age group, how students respond to the topic will vary. We ask that you keep the discussion of a more serious nature. Below are numerous questions. Depending upon the length of time you have and the maturity of your group, you might need to pick and choose which questions you focus on.]*

1. Let's begin tonight by going around the circle and finding out what the highlight of everyone's week has been.
2. Awesome. Before we dive into tonight's topic, let's begin by talking to Jesus. Let me open us up in prayer.

*[Leader's Note: In your prayer, ask Jesus to help the group feel comfortable and safe enough to have open and honest communication. Once you close, make sure everyone has the notes from the evening. Have a few extra copies on hand just in case.]*

3. Jeanne began tonight with an apology. Does anyone remember specifically what she apologized for?

*[Answer: Jeanne apologized for the church either (1) preaching so hard against sin that people who are struggling in this area feel like they have to go "underground" and/or (2) awkwardly ignoring the whole discussion.]*

4. Right out of the gate, Jeanne talks about how the Bible clearly tell us that same-sex relationships are a sin. However, she immediately went on to say that even though Jesus is brokenhearted over our sin...regardless of what our sin of choice is...He still what?

*[Answer: Loves us...that's a big deal.]*

5. What were some of the reasons someone might question whether they or someone they know is gay?

*[Answer: Personality, same-sex fantasies and compromised in a same sex relationship, may have even enjoyed it.]*

6. Jeanne said that none of these mean you're gay...that those feelings and temptations do not have to seal your future destiny. Only your \_\_\_\_\_ will determine that. What word goes in the blank?

*[Answer: Choices...so many things boil down to our choices.]*

7. She went on to say, every single time you give into temptation, the Enemy's stronghold in your life tightens its grip. Explain what she meant by that. Have you been in situations where you've seen it happen?

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## discussion outline

8. Jeanne spent some time talking about how media and the internet can mess us up in this area. Why are they, in particular, so damaging?

*[Leader's Note: There will be a number of different answers here. However, take the time to talk about how images stick so vividly in our head and, if they are powerful enough, take no effort to recall.]*

9. Having said all of that, what were some of the suggestions she gave tonight on how to deal with the challenges?

*[Leader's Note: Affirm their answers and elaborate where necessary.]*

10. Let's look at our notes from tonight under "Suggestions" and see if we hit them all. Real quick, take a look at number 5, "Deal honestly with EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY." Underneath it is a great list to help you know if you might be in trouble when it comes to a relationship. *[Quickly, read the main bullet of each one.]* How did you see them played out in the dramas?

11. How hard do you think it would be for the guys or Rachel and her friend to pull away or break off their relationship? Why?

*[Leader's Note: Close by talking about how any sin pattern can be difficult to conquer, especially if you've been in it any length of time. However, with the strength that Jesus provides and by surrounding yourself with great people, you can be the victor. Thank them for their open and honest communication. Talk about how you want the group to be a safe place where they can talk about tough issues like this one. Close in prayer.]*

## How to Handle Conflict Pt. 2

Darren Hileman

We should strive to be people who handle conflict well. Odds are that we will have many opportunities to hone these skills. If we become skilled at handling conflict, we will be blessed at home and in the marketplace. During this lesson we will finish covering some simple principles that may be a benefit to us in the midst of the “battle.” May we all become masters of handling conflict in a way that brings glory to our God.

### #1 Love

Jeanne has said, “Love is the most powerful force on earth.” At times it’s hard to live out, but boy is it true. What we do in the flesh we will regret in the future. Right actions will bring right feelings and if we choose to love we can’t go wrong.

Sometimes we may appear weak through making the choice to show love, but in time it will reveal our strength. Even if it makes the other person appear as if they were right, as we choose to live in the truth the lie will eventually die. Time is always on truth’s side.

It’s during times of conflict that we come to the realization that love is not an emotion we feel, it’s a choice of our will. We must get outside of ourselves, our “rights,” and our pride, and choose to walk in the will and way of the Lord. If we base our decisions and reactions on our flesh the conflict may continue. We demonstrate true character when we are willing to overlook a wrong that has been done and love the person anyway. My Pastor says, “I’d rather be done wrong than do wrong.” Although that doesn’t mean we set ourselves up to be wronged again.

Colossians 3:13-14, “You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others and the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

### #2 Learn

We need to be a student of life and learn from our experiences. Rather than putting difficult times behind or quickly pressing on to the next adventure we should take the time to reflect, learn and evaluate how we are doing in the journey of life. Not only can we learn from our own personal conflict we should watch and learn from others as well. Make the choice to learn from history rather than repeating it.

The tests and conflict we experience in life are to reveal our personal character and progress. Whatever is in our glass, character or make up, will spill out when it is bumped. If we don’t learn from conflict and life’s lessons we may have to retake the test. I don’t think God is as concerned about our comfort as He is our character. If we pass the test, it can be used for our testimony.

Hebrews 5:8, “So even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.”

### **#3 Leave**

Once we have done our best to resolve conflict or spiritually realign a student who is spiritually struggling, it is time to lift the burden to the Lord and ask Him to supernaturally intervene. We can't allow ourselves to become so burdened with the problem or embittered by the conflict that we allow it to destroy our personal families or the ministry God has called us to. That is too high of a price to pay. When it comes to being bitter, remember that unforgiveness is like drinking a cup of poison and expecting the other person to die.

Colossians 3:8-10, "But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you."

For questions or comments contact Darren Hileman at [pd@sc-mc.org](mailto:pd@sc-mc.org) or by phone at 803.798.4488.



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