

Small Group Questions:

Series: In Search of: Friends That Last

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Read

Ephesians 4: 3–6, 17–32, and 5:1–2; and Romans 12:2

Reflect

In Ephesians, Paul discusses how we are one body, but that unity doesn't just happen. Our differences often create division rather than unity. How can we focus more on what unites us?

Pastor Josh Walters offers us three keys to resolve conflict and maintain friendships that last.

1. Put off the behavior of the old man.

- a. What behavior do you need to put off to promote more peace and unity in your life?
- b. When conflict arises, what are your typical initial reactions and tendencies?

2. Put on the behavior of the new man.

- a. Speak truth.
 - i. In what ways, even really small, might you struggle with falsehood?
 - ii. How willing are you to speak truth? What holds you back?
- b. Question my anger.
 - i. What are the feelings behind your anger? What hurt might it stem from?
 - ii. Are you angry about anything that you've yet to address?
- c. Give generously.
 - i. Where on the spectrum of being open-handed or close-fisted do you fall?
 - ii. How generous are you in dealing with others? Would those closest to you agree?
- d. Prioritize people.
 - i. Does what you say and how you say it, build up others?
- e. Respond carefully.
 - i. Do you tend to react with emotion or respond consciously to create a positive outcome? How can you cultivate "responding" rather than "reacting"?
 - ii. Would kindness, compassion, and forgiveness be words used to describe your interaction with others?

3. Walk in the way of love.

- a. Walking is a continuing process and practice, just as love is. How can you alter your behavior to see conflict as an invitation to deepen your relationships and go to a new place together?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?