

flourish

GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN OF GRACE

DATE: April 23, 2023

RECAP: We are continuing our series about human flourishing in God's garden of grace which abounds with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As co-laborers in the garden, sometimes we have to do a little bit of weeding, and conflict is a weed that loves to spring up. Conflict is a strong disagreement which, if not resolved or addressed in a healthy way, causes relational deterioration.

For this week's discussion we'll consider how to flourish in the midst of conflict resolution. At the end of Pastor Derwin's message, you were invited to write the names of people you need to resolve conflict with. As you work through the discussion questions, keep those people in mind.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What happens to you when you experience conflict with another person? How do you usually react?
- Read Romans 5:10-11. What does this passage tell us about the reconciling work of Jesus? How can starting conflict resolution with a deep awareness of what Jesus did shape our reconciliation with others?
- Read James 1:19-20. What does "be quick to listen" mean? And how is it loving the other person compassionately? (See also Romans 12:10)
- Simply knowing better techniques to engage conflict doesn't necessarily make you more holy. What does it mean to love God completely, yourself correctly and the other person compassionately in the midst of conflict? See Romans 5:8-9 and 12:18 as you think about this question.
- What is one specific way that you can "as far as it depends on you, live at peace" with the person whose name you wrote down? Where might you need to let go of the responsibility for their emotions?