

GOD'S FAMILY FUELS MY FIRE: The Spirit dwells in me but his power is revealed in community. I intentionally prioritize Christian relationships because I have something to give and something to receive.

VID: SCOTS AND SCOTS // ONE REASON MOMS ARE SO AMAZING // ABOUT MY MOM • MY FIGHTS WITH JODI • UNITY OVER TRAGEDY • BROKEN DOVE • MY MOM NEVER LET ON // ONCE JODI AND I BEGAN TO FIND AGREEMENT, WE BEGAN TO HAVE A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP // BURN

THE FLOW OF CONFLICT

VID: YOU'VE GOT MAIL

- disagreement stems from differing **beliefs**
- beliefs are always **personal** (each one forms part of me)
- disagreement is conflict, an attack on my **identity**
- in order for that part of me to live, that part of you must **die**
- in order for that part of you to die, **you** must die

ATTACK, DENIAL, & AVOIDANCE ARE ALL A TYPE OF DEATH • UNRESOLVED CONFLICT IS MURDER

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment... anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:22

IT'S AN ISSUE OF POWER • WE USE WORDS, VOICE, BODY TO CONVEY POWER

The Tragedy of Christian Conflict

IT TEARS THE FABRIC OF THE **Holy Spirit**.

Ephesians 4:3-5

1 Corinthians 12:13

1 John 3:23-24

ILL: TWO CHILDREN PLAYING WITH A BALL • TWO CHRISTIANS IN DISAGREEMENT

IT VIOLATES THE **heart cry** OF JESUS.

John 17:20-23

IT KILLS OUR **witness**.

John 13:35

The Power of Agreement

AGREEMENT "**realizes**" JESUS.

MANIFESTS, CHANNELS, REALIZES • NEVER CLOSER TO JESUS THAN UNITY, SERVICE & SUFFERING
Philippians 4:2

Philippians 2:1-5

AGREEMENT DEFEATS **divisions** NOT DIFFERENCES.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1 Corinthians 11:18-19

DIVIDED FROM CATHOLICS (FOLLOW PETER) • DIFFERENT FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS (BAPTISM)

AGREEMENT DEFEATS THE **devil**.

Ephesians 4:25-27

Matthew 18:18-20

Take Home: Conflict ⇒ Agreement

VID: THE OFFICE

1. **You initiate reconciliation.**

Matthew 5:23-24

2. WORK GENTLY THE **steps** OF RESTORATION.

Matthew 18:15-17 & 2 Timothy 2:23-26

- Identify the sin (in yourself and the other person)
- Confess yours & confront theirs.
"When you _____, that was sinful because the Bible says _____.
I think you need to repent and make it right."
- With hope, take it up a notch, if necessary.

3. FIND THE **higher answer**.

1 Corinthians 6:1-6 • Acts 15:37-40 • Colossians 4:10 • 2 Timothy 4:11

4. LET THE LITTLE THINGS **go**.

1 Corinthians 4:3-7 & Romans 14:4

"[I feel / I think / I would like] _____"

HAVE THEM WRITE THIS DOWN: "How important is this to you?"