

God's Way is Considerate

Proverbs 18: 2, 13 Ephesians 4:21-27 Matthew 18:15-20

1. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be understood **as to understand**. – The Prayer of St. Francis or The Peace Prayer

- Habit #5: **Seek** _____, then to be understood. Dr. Stephen Covey The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- The **first duty of love is to** _____.” - Paul Tillich
- Why do we have two ears and one mouth?

2. Discovering God's _____ to experience what we want _____ in relationships

- What do I want most in my relationships?

- What can't I control?

- To get what I want most in relationships, _____
_____.

- **The wisdom that comes from heaven (God's Way) is** first of all pure; then peace-loving, **considerate**, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17

- God's way is _____.

- Definition of considerate: showing kindly awareness (_____) and regard for another's feelings and circumstances.

3. **Everyone should be quick to** _____, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

- What hinders my really listening to others?

- If I want to first listen and understand, what should be my goal?

4. How do I know that a crucial conversation is needed?

1)

2)

3)

- What is often needed to effectively resolve a conflict?

5. Jesus taught us to resolve our conflicts.

- *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*
- *If a brother or sister in Christ sins against you, **go and point out their fault, just between the two of you.** Matthew 18:15a*

6. **Ten Steps For Resolving Conflict** Write out your responses.

- 1) Set a good time and place for a structured crucial conversation.
- 2) Define the problem. Be specific. Example: *Sometimes (one of your names) feels (a real feeling) when she/he perceives that ...*
- 3) List the ways you each contribute to the problem.
- 4) List unsuccessful past attempts to resolve the conflict.
- 5) Brainstorm. Pool your new ideas and try to list 10 possible solutions to the problem. Be creative. Do not judge or criticize any of the suggestions at this point.
- 6) Discuss and evaluate each of these possible solutions. Be as objective as possible. Talk about how useful and appropriate each suggestion is for resolving the conflict.
- 7) Agree on one solution to try.
- 8) Agree how you will each work toward this solution. Be as specific as possible.
- 9) Set up another meeting to discuss your progress.
- 10) Reward each other for the progress. If you notice the other person making a positive contribution toward the solution, praise his/her effort.

7. To get what you want most in relationships, **first listen and seek to understand, and** _____

8. Next Steps: