What Are We Becoming?

Conviction Without Contempt Week One
Following Jesus When We Disagree

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16; 4:20-5:2

Main idea: The way of Jesus still applies when we're right.

Contempt means treating someone as beneath us because we believe they're wrong.

Paul's instructions grow out of God's grace. Through Christ, God has brought us into one family. Now we're learning to live together as his people.

1. Let Jesus shape your response

Ephesians 4:15-16, 20-24

- Christian maturity means growing together into Christ, with truth and love shaping our life as his body.
- Learning Christ includes leaving behind the old self, having our minds renewed, and living the new life God has created.
- Listen carefully, represent others fairly, and remain willing to receive correction.

2. Use your words for their good

Ephesians 4:25-31

- **Tell the truth:** We belong to one another. Correct false claims, including those that fit our suspicions. (v. 25)
- **Deal with anger:** Address problems promptly without feeding bitterness or seeking revenge. (vv. 26-27, 31)
- **Build others up:** New life turns taking into giving. Choose words that meet the hearer's need, including necessary correction. (vv. 28-29)
- **Remember God's presence:** The Spirit who marks us as God's own can be grieved by how we treat one another. (v. 30)

3. Give the mercy you have received

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

- God's forgiveness in Christ grounds our forgiveness of others.
- As God's loved children, we learn to walk in Christ's self-giving love.

- Admit wrong, offer honest apologies, and help others make things right. Forgiveness can include accountability, boundaries, and consequences.

The person I'm correcting needs the mercy I've received.

One conversation this week

Choose one conversation in which to follow Jesus more faithfully. Pray, prepare with another Christian, and talk afterward about what you learned. Help someone else practice the same obedience.