

## **HTPC**

### **Christianity in the Home**

#### **Week 5: Dealing with Conflict in the Home**

*Doug Wilson— “Keeping Short Accounts”*

*David Powlison— “Human Defensiveness: The Third Way”*

Matthew 18:23-35; Ephesians 4:31-32.

#### **Overview**

What “hit” you— really hit you— in these readings? What does your home (or perhaps your childhood home) look like in terms of picking up things “dropped on the carpet”?

#### **Wilson**

*The Problem of Sin* Husband and wife must: 1. Understand what sin is. 2. Understand God’s provision for sin in the cross. 3. Understand what to do when they sin against God in the marriage relationship (p. 67). Discuss.

*Putting Things Right* Discuss the *how* of Christian confession and impediments which arise.

*House Rules for Keeping Short Accounts* How might these practical steps assist us?

#### **Powlison**

“Accuracy about human defensiveness is anchored in one’s understanding of the relationship between man and God” (p. 15).

1.Placing various “defense mechanisms” into a biblical framework, what do we learn about ourselves with respect to conflict in our lives (conflict between us and God and between us and others)? (pp. 16-18). E.g., “...we ‘wear masks’; we duck, weave, and dodge ‘the light’ of self-knowledge and honesty before God and man; we wear fig leaves... ‘I did that,’ says my memory. ‘I could not have done that,’ says my pride, and remains inexorable. Eventually— the memory yields” (pp. 18-19).

2.Discuss the pendulum swing between “condemning” moralism and “liberating/accepting” tolerance when matters are processed devoid of the authority of the Scriptures and the hope of the Gospel (p. 22).

3.“It is striking as well how “madmen” become sane as they begin to grasp the implications of justification by faith, the substitutionary atonement, the alien righteousness of Christ, adoption as children of the Father, the Lordship of the crucified Savior...” (p. 22). THEOLOGY TRULY IS PRACTICAL!!!