

Today's Message: "Trading Best Part 3: Conflict"

Links to "Where Are You God?" Series
www.nwfourquestions.org/suffering

Conflict is **unavoidable**.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, ESV)

Conflict is not necessarily a bad thing.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17, ESV)

Conflict requires deliberate action toward **peace**.

"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." (Romans 14:19, ESV)

Conflict Resolution

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17, ESV)

The Crooked Paths

1. If you think you are better
2. If you have unrealistic expectations

Today's Message: "Trading Best Part 3: Conflict"

Links to "Where Are You God?" Series
www.nwfourquestions.org/suffering

Conflict is **unavoidable**.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, ESV)

Conflict is not necessarily a bad thing.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17, ESV)

Conflict requires deliberate action toward **peace**.

"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." (Romans 14:19, ESV)

Conflict Resolution

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17, ESV)

The Crooked Paths

1. If you think you are better
2. If you have unrealistic expectations

Before the Confrontation

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35, ESV)

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (Romans 8:18, ESV)

³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” (Matthew 7:3-5, ESV)

“The Peace Maker” by Ken Sande

Unity Radar

Colossians 3:¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Ephesians 4: ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Tell us about a current relational conflict in your life? Are there any unresolved conflicts in your past?
2. Read Matthew 18. Are you familiar with Mathew 18: 15 – 17? Have you ever attempted to use it as a guideline for a conflict with a fellow believer? Has anyone ever used it “on you?”
3. When it comes to conflict are you more like Nehemiah or more like Ezra?
4. According to John 13:34-35 why is it so important for Christians to settle conflict in a healthy manner? Have you seen Christians fall short? Have you fallen short in this area?
5. According to Romans 8:18 what are we to do if a conflict cannot be resolved?
6. Read Matthew 7: 3-5. Why is it so important to take this into account before the confrontation?
7. Why do you think unity in the church at times is so difficult?
8. What is one take away from the sermon that is going to lead you to handle conflict differently in the future?

Before the Confrontation

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35, ESV)

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (Romans 8:18, ESV)

³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” (Matthew 7:3-5, ESV)

“The Peace Maker” by Ken Sande

Unity Radar

Colossians 3:¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Ephesians 4: ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Tell us about a current relational conflict in your life? Are there any unresolved conflicts in your past?
2. Read Matthew 18. Are you familiar with Mathew 18: 15 – 17? Have you ever attempted to use it as a guideline for a conflict with a fellow believer? Has anyone ever used it “on you?”
3. When it comes to conflict are you more like Nehemiah or more like Ezra?
4. According to John 13:34-35 why is it so important for Christians to settle conflict in a healthy manner? Have you seen Christians fall short? Have you fallen short in this area?
5. According to Romans 8:18 what are we to do if a conflict cannot be resolved?
6. Read Matthew 7: 3-5. Why is it so important to take this into account before the confrontation?
7. Why do you think unity in the church at times is so difficult?
8. What is one take away from the sermon that is going to lead you to handle conflict differently in the future?