

**“Resolving Conflicts”**  
November 24, 2013

**COMMUNITY** is the way God moves on the earth.

- From the beginning: *“Let US make...let THEM rule.”*
- Malachi- *“Pour out My Spirit on ALL flesh...sons & daughters.”*
- Matthew 18:20- *“Where two or three gather (lead together)...”*

**CHURCH** is the *“called out and called together ones”*

- Solomon’s temple filled w/ glory, yet the LORD spoke of greater glory in a temple *“not made with hands” (Acts 17:24)*
- The church is *“the dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit” (Eph. 2:22)*
- Solomon described this Bride *“glowing like the dawn, clear as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?” (SOS 6:10 ESV)*
- Paul saw us becoming *“a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:27)*

**PROP-** Being His community—His corporate expression on the earth—is something worth fighting FOR (not fighting WITH) so that we may connect with Jesus, through Whom *“the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.” (Ephesians 2:21)*

**RESOLVING CONFLICTS** is a vital part of this.

1. **CONFLICTS HAPPEN**

**“CONFLICT”** is *“a clash (often prolonged) caused by a disagreement of ideas and perspectives—strong feelings resulting in strong opposition.”*

- Disagreement is inevitable (*Adam & Eve; 1<sup>st</sup> 2 cars in N.J.*)
- Yet, prolonged conflicts can be prevented
- Conflicts do not have to end in **division** and **dissolved relationships**. They can actually result in **greater clarity & stronger connections**.

2. **CONFLICTS BECOME UNHEALTHY WHEN FEAR TAKES OVER**

The “fear-that-fuels-conflicts” is **BEING AFRAID YOU WON’T GET WHAT YOU NEED**.

*James 4:1-2- “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something—but don’t get it.”*

**WANT** → **DEMAND** → **JUDGE** (“You always/you never”) → **PUNISH** (“It’s over!”)

**PUNISHING** can take on several forms:

- **FIGHT-** *no holds barred verbal combat; “win-at-all-costs” (Word WF)*
- **FLIGHT-** *withdraw, “apo-LIE-gize,” or “pretend” everything’s alright*
- **FREEZE-** *love grows cold; shut down emotionally; shut out relationally*

### **3. HEALTHY CONFLICTS REST ON SEVERAL SOLID CONVICTIONS**

#### **1. “CARE”**

- a. The ultimate goal of any respectful conversation: *“What do you need and how can I help you to meet that need?”*
- b. *“Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” (Philippians 2:4 NLT)*
- c. The **foundational issue** in most conflicts is the FEAR that you DON'T CARE about the other person's needs.
- d. TRUST is a MUST for healthy conflicts to happen. *(Being willing to admit what you need & trusting someone else to care involves vulnerability.)*

#### **2. “SHARE”**

- a. I have a **responsibility** to let you know my thoughts and feelings.
- b. It would be wrong for me to expect you to know how I'm feeling/thinking if I'm not telling you.
- c. Luke 6:45- *“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”*  
How can you know my heart if I don't share it with you?

#### **3. “BEAR (WITH)”**

- a. Colossians 3:13- *“Bear with one another and forgive one another if you have a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*
- b. (Middle voice) *“To be made able to stand supportively & patiently with someone—seeking to understand them”*
- c. One of the most powerful weapons to “diffuse the division bomb” is SOMEONE WHO LISTENS WITH A SERVANT'S HEART.

#### **4. “PRAYER”**

- a. *“Avoid foolish and stupid arguments, because they only produce quarrels (endless conflicts).” (2 Tim. 2:23)*
- b. *“Foolish”- a disregard for consequences*
- c. We BOTH count! (Phil. 2:4 keeps **both** interests in mind- yours AND mine)
- d. James 4:2- *“You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.” ONLY JESUS is “all in all” (Col. 1:17)—we can't be*

### **CONCLUSION**

**Fighting dis-ease can make your body stronger.**

**Relationships with those He's set us in the Body with “just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:18)—are worth fighting for!**