



# Conflict

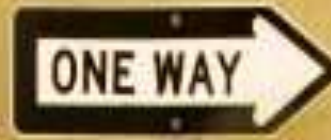
**“The difference between spiritual and unspiritual community is not whether conflict exists, but is rather in our attitude toward it and our approach to handling it. When conflict is seen as an opportunity to draw more fully on spiritual resources, we have the makings of spiritual community.”**

Larry Crabb

## **Two Realities of Conflict**

- 1. Conflict is Inevitable**
- 2. Conflict is an Opportunity for Grace**





**CONFLICT: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GRACE**

# Conflict in the Family



**Adam & Eve Cast Out of  
the Garden**  
Gen 3:8-13



**Jacob Steals His Brother's Birthright**  
Gen 27:34, 35



**Joseph & His Brothers in Egypt**  
Gen 45



# Conflict in the Church



Believers had all  
things in common  
Acts 2:44

Acts 6 (NLT)

**6:1 But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.**

**2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”**

**5 Everyone liked this idea.**



# Conflict in the Church

Galatians 2:11-13 (NLT)

## Paul Confronts Peter

**<sup>11</sup> But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. <sup>12</sup> When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. <sup>13</sup> As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.**



# Biblical Conflict Resolution

## Jesus sets the stage for conflict resolution

Matthew 18 (NLT)

18:1 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

2 Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. 3 Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.



# Biblical Conflict Resolution

**Matthew 18 15-17 (NLT)**

**15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.**



# Biblical Conflict Resolution

## Jesus' 4 Step Plan

**Step 1 (vs 15) - “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.**



# Biblical Conflict Resolution

## Jesus' 4 Step Plan

**Step 2 (vs 16) - But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses**

**Step 3 (vs 17) - If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church.**

**Step 4 (vs 18) - Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector**

**FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS PEOPLE!**



# Application



## **The Case of the Terrible Cup of Coffee**

# What Do You Do When All Else Fails?

**Look to your Savior & His example.**

**Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)**

**<sup>14</sup> “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

**Luke 23:34 (NLT)**

**<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**