

How To Handle Conflict

A closer look at THE conflict:

Acts 15

The letter behind our story:

Galatians 1-6

- Salvation begins and ends with **CHRIST** on the **CROSS**.
- Salvation is **GRACE ALONE**; forgiveness is from **CHRIST ALONE**.

The three conflicts from our story today involve:

Acts 15:22-16:5

- A **PUBLIC** conflict over **GREAT** issues that ends in peace.
- A **PRIVATE** conflict over **PERSONAL** issues that ends in brokenness.
- A **PERSONAL** conflict that demonstrates the new law of **LOVE**.

What does a life in the Spirit look like?

Galatians 5:16-26, Romans 7-8, 1 Corinthians 8, Romans 14-15, Philippians 2:1-11

- To partner with the life of **CHRIST**, I have to *choose* to respond like **CHRIST**, not **CHRIS**.
 - It is easier to know what is **ANTI-CHRIST** in my life, and just **GET RID** of that.
 - I put to death my **PREFERENCES**, and my **RIGHTS**.
 - Every response shows the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**, not my **FLESH**.
 - My words and actions show a love that **BUILDS UP**, never **TEARS DOWN**.
 - **SACRIFICE AND SERVICE** are now the leading goals of my life.

Food for Thought

For the week of September 13, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Three examples of conflict were laid out in this weekend's teaching. We learned that in this life, it's not so much *if* we will experience conflict but *when*, and how we as Christians respond when we do. Can you think of a time in your life when a personal conflict you experienced did not go well?

Thinking back on that situation, how might things have gone differently if you had involved the Holy Spirit?

What things might you need to do differently, give up or abstain from going forward in order to keep fellowship with other believers?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Sometimes our natural preferences, or even what we consider to be our rights, can be at odds with God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in building up the church and our fellowship. How do the following passages speak to you when it comes to setting aside your preferences in your marriage or singleness, with children or other family relationships, in your neighborhood, workplace or even with your Life Group?

Ephesians 5: 28-30, 33 (NIV)

²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block for the weak.

Romans 7:6 (NIV)

⁶ But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 8:1-4 (NIV)

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 14:13 (NIV)

¹³ Therefore, let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

2. We are called to live out our lives jointly with the Holy Spirit, yet sometimes it's hard to know just what that really means or how that should influence us to act. Read Philippians 2:1-8 and circle, highlight or underline some of the actions and attitudes that speak to the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Philippians 2: 1-8 (NIV)

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Which of the action items you identified can you begin to put into practice this week?

What will you need to sacrifice in order to put these actions in to service?



Sign-ups are going on now!

Life Groups are our small group ministry and the key to getting connected at North Coast Church. We have groups for everyone from young adults to senior adults. Especially in this season, Life Groups have never been more important - community is connection! That's why this year we have options for groups that will meet in person (following current guidelines), as well as groups that will meet online, and even some that will do a hybrid of both! To start checking out the options, visit northcoastchurch.com/groups.

Don't delay, groups fill fast.