

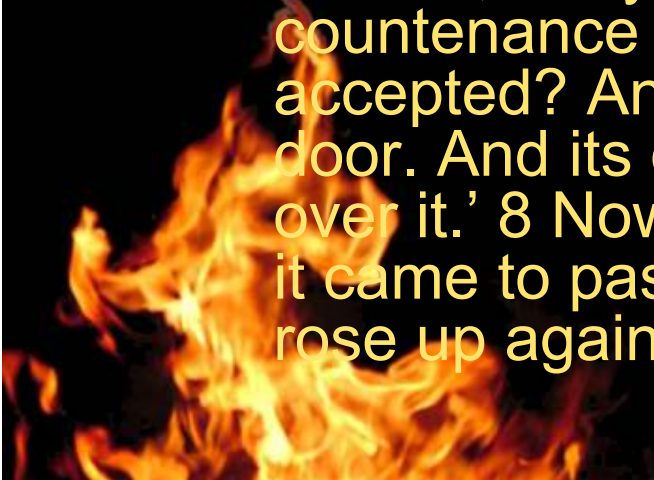


# Dealing With Confrontation



# Dealing With Confrontation

- As long as humans have interacted, there has been conflict.
  - Gen. 4:3-8 - “And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’ 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”



# Dealing With Confrontation

- God made us all to be different.
  - Rom. 12:3-6 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.”
  - 1Peter 4:10 - “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

# Dealing With Confrontation

- Difference has its value; our differing strengths and weaknesses can complement one another.
- But difference means that there will be differences of perspective and opinion on various matters. The question is not if, but when.
- We can try to end every conflict, but it is impossible.
- We would do better to consider how we should handle conflicts when they arise so that the end result will be encouragement and edification.
- God knows we will have conflict (He made us), and He has provided the means by which we can resolve them.



# Conflict And The Scriptures

- Conflict is: “A striking or dashing against each other, as of two moving bodies in opposition; a fighting; combat; Contention; strife; contest; Struggling with difficulties; a striving to oppose, or overcome; A struggling of the mind; distress; anxiety; Opposing operations; countervailing action; collision; opposition.” (*Webster's*)



# Conflict And The Scriptures

- Matt. 5:23-24 - “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”



# Conflict And The Scriptures

- Matt. 18:15-17 - “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”



# Conflict And The Scriptures

- Acts 15:1-12
- Romans 14





# Conflict And The Scriptures

- Gal. 2:11-14 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

# Handling Confrontation

- How to handle conflict in a manner that:
  - Pleases God,
  - Reinforces good relationships with others,
  - Maintains our own integrity and spirituality.



# Handling Conflict

- Conflict **must be addressed**.
  - Phil. 4:2-3 - “I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”



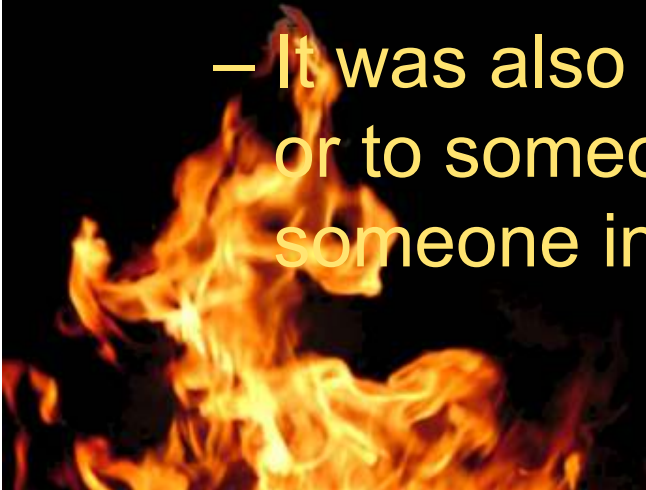
# Handling Conflict

- If something has been said or done that causes anxiety, anger, strain, or frustration, it **must be dealt with directly and immediately.**
  - Prov. 12:25 - “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.”
  - Prov. 14:10 - “The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.”
  - Prov. 15:13 - “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”



# Handling Conflict

- Conflict *must be dealt with personally* by the persons involved.
  - In all the Bible examples considered, no one spoke behind the backs of others; they directly addressed the other party in the conflict.
  - It was not left to simmer over time.
  - It was also not taken to someone not involved, or to someone not responsible to help, or to someone in another congregation.

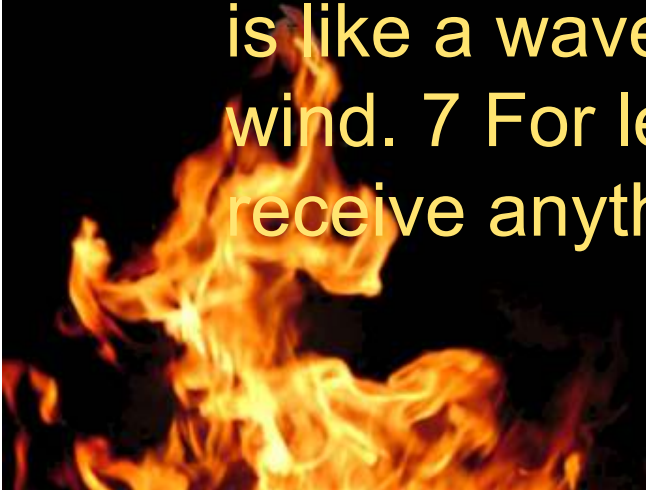


# Handling Conflict

- **Pray about it.**

- 1Thes. 5:17 - “Pray without ceasing.”

- James 1:5-7 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.”



# Handling Conflict

- **Pray about it.**

- 1Peter 5:6-7 - “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

- Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”



# Handling Conflict

- **Seek counsel** from those equipped by the word of God to offer wise advice.
  - The elders,
  - A sound, faithful evangelist,
  - A stronger, older, wiser Christian.
  - Phil. 3:17 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

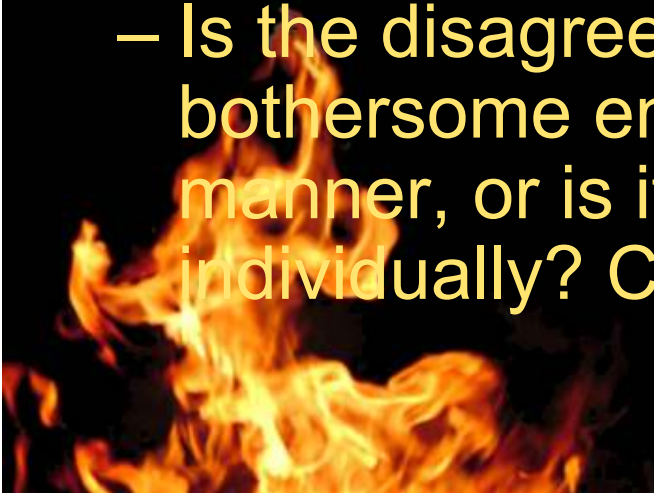




# Handling Conflict

- **Assess the conflict.**

- What is the nature of the conflict? Is it a matter of Bible authority, a matter of personal liberty, or a matter of individual judgment?
  - Rom. 14:17 - “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- Is the disagreement significant enough or bothersome enough to need addressing in a public manner, or is it something that we can overcome individually? Choose your battles wisely.



# Handling Conflict

- **Consider ourselves.**

- If the conflict is significant, we should ask:

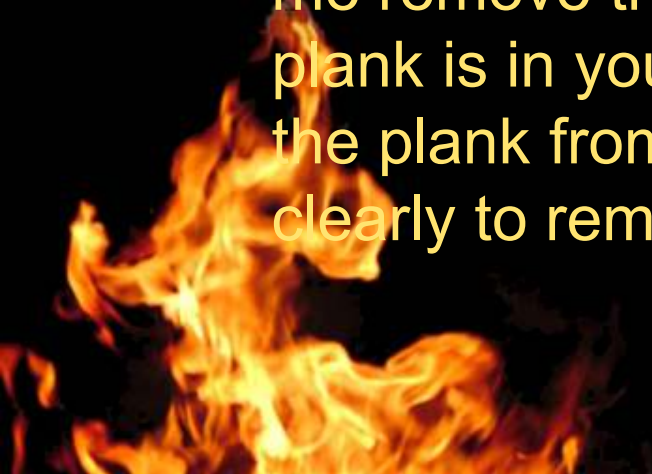
- What are we trying to accomplish in this conflict?
- Whose purposes are we serving?
- Are we being humble servants of God who seek to encourage each other to work in God's Kingdom, or are we just being cantankerous or judgmental?



# Handling Conflict

- **Consider ourselves.**

– Matt. 7:1-5 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”



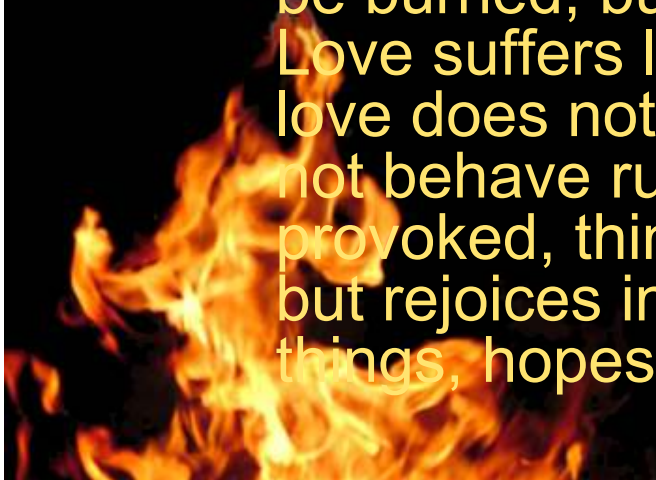
# Handling Conflict

- ***Approach the conflict with a calm spirit.***
  - Psalm 4:4 - “Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.”
  - Prov. 15:28 - “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”
  - 1Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, ***with meekness and fear***”



# Handling Conflict

- **Approach the conflict with a calm spirit.**
  - 1Cor. 13:1-7 - “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”



# Handling Conflict

- We must remember that we are addressing fellow children of God who have equal worth and dignity in the eyes of God Who loves them as much as He loves us, and we must treat them appropriately.

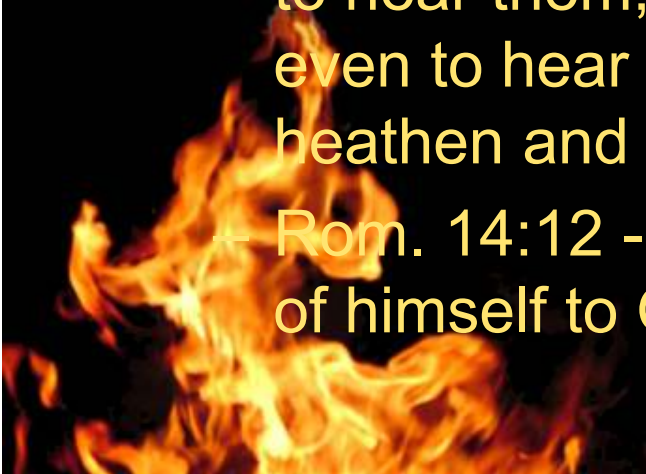


# Handling Conflict

- **Speak with the person!**

- Matt. 18:15-17 - “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”

- Rom. 14:12 - “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”



# Lessons:

- Conflicts are inevitable whenever people are involved.
- What are we going to do about them?
- Are we going to let disagreements turn into strife, contention, and discord?
  - These things are works of the flesh that keeps one out of the Kingdom - Gal. 5:19-21
- Or will we develop the conscience and courage necessary to handle them in a healthy manner?

