

When Conflicts Arise

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Category: Discipleship



Purpose

Reduce the occurrences of conflict and manage them in a Christ-centered way when they arise to transform conflict into a learning moment for you and your team.



Food for Thought

In order to be on the same page, and to serve as on unit, not only must we grow in love for one another, but good communication and commitment is required from all members too. This includes regularly communicating our attendance, updates regarding our other conflicting commitments, our capacity levels, expectations not being met and other issues or concerns that may arise. Early, clear, and frequent communication, as well as honouring your commitments (doing what you say you will do, being present and supportive for your team) will help minimize issues, conflicts, and burn-out.

When Conflict Arises Because we are created so very differently, and because of our innate brokenness, personality clashes and conflict is inevitable, so let's not be surprised by it. Instead, let's prepare well for it. As brothers and sisters, children of God, and created in God's image, we are commanded and reminded throughout the Bible to love one another and to abound in love.



Guiding Passages

The bible provides many passages on how we ought to treat one another:

MATTHEW 22:37-39

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

JOHN 13:34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 PETER 4:8-9

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

ROMANS 12:10

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

EPHESIANS 4:2-6, 32

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all... ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

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.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 JOHN 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not

that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.



Application

As mature Christians growing in faith, Ephesians 4 tells us to continue to journey together, with all humility, gentleness, and with patience, bear with one another in love, and to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. This may be difficult for some and easier for others, but we ought to grow in our love for Christ and our love for one another, remembering, in light of eternity and furthering God's kingdom, why we serve, who we serve, and ultimately, who we are held accountable to.

How can you apply some of these passages to resolve conflicts in a more productive and Christ-centered way in your ministry?

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