

Conflict Resolution



Collectively and Individually

Conflicts arise when two or more individuals, and/or entities have “competitive or opposing actions of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons),” or a “mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands” (Webster’s Dictionary).

As a result of these Conflicts there exists a need to find a Resolution, i.e., “the act of finding an answer or solution to a conflict, problem...an answer or solution to something” (ibid), in order to establish peace among those involved

Where ever men gather Conflicts will arise. The Conflict may only affect the principals involved, or, the Conflict may put others in harm’s way: physically, spiritually, and/or eternally. Conflicts are not simply a matter to be viewed as inconsequential. The existence of a Conflict as a general rule indicate that law, natural or divine, has been violated. The prophet James said, “To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Sin is progressive, and unresolved conflicts can, and have, separated chiefest friends, destroyed homes, and nations. In this segment our attention is focused on sin that occurred in the midst of brethren. The brethren knew it, and tolerated it. As a result there was great danger to the purity of the whole. The second conflict

will involve individual brethren that had the potential of bringing reproach upon the body.

The Conflict: “It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one of you hath his father's wife.

The Result: And ye are puffed up, and did not rather mourn, that he that had done this deed might be taken away from among you.

The Resolution: For I verily, being absent in body but present in spirit, have already as though I were present judged him that hath so wrought this thing, in the name of our Lord Jesus, ye being gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, even as ye are unleavened. For our passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ: wherefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote unto you in my epistle to have no company with fornicators; not at all meaning with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous and extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world: but as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no, not to eat. For what have I to do with judging them that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Put away the wicked man from among yourselves” (1 Corinthians 1:1–13). These actions are predominately thought of in the religious realm. However, various cultures utilize such punishment to restore the offender to a state of grace.

The Conflict: “Dare any of you, having a matter against his neighbor, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Or know ye not that the saints

shall judge the world? and if the world is judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more, things that pertain to this life?"

The Resolution: "If then ye have to judge things pertaining to this life, do ye set them to judge who are of no account in the church? I say this to move you to shame. What, cannot there be found among you one wise man who shall be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goeth to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? Nay, already it is altogether a defect in you, that ye have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather take wrong? why not rather be defrauded? Nay, but ye yourselves do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren" (1 Corinthians 6:1–8).

Conflicts and their subsequent Resolution are dealt with on a daily basis. Some are minor in consequence, other, on the other hand, can be devastating to individuals, homes, religions, and/or nations.

We want to thank you for your continued interest in Conflict Resolution and hope the information will be of a benefit to you in your interpersonal relationships. The intent of the study was to provide you with Biblical thoughts, concepts, and scripture that you might have something to mediate upon, as you go about your busy life, as the Psalmist affirmed of his life, saying, "I will meditate on thy precepts, And have respect unto thy ways" (Psalms 119:15)"