

**Series: "CONNECT(ED)"**  
**Part 3: "WHY CAN'T WE AGREE?"**  
**Crossroads Community Church**  
**November 5, 2023**

**Why conflict resolution matters**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ conflict leads to \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

**3 Keys to Know about Conflict**

1. Conflict is \_\_\_\_\_

A. Conflict is \_\_\_\_\_ in a fallen world

<sup>33</sup> *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*  
John 16:33 (NIV)

B. Conflict flows from our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Differences in \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> *Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."* <sup>2</sup> *This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.* <sup>3</sup> *The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.* <sup>4</sup> *When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.* <sup>5</sup> *Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."*

Acts 15:1-5 (NIV)

➤ Differences in \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>36</sup> *Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."* <sup>37</sup> *Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,* <sup>38</sup> *but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.* <sup>39</sup> *They had such a sharp*

*disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,* <sup>40</sup> *but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.* <sup>41</sup> *He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.* Acts 15:36-41 (NIV)

➤ Differences in \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?* <sup>2</sup> *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.* <sup>3</sup> *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

James 4:1-3 (NIV)

2. Conflict is an \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,* <sup>2</sup> *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.* <sup>3</sup> *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.* <sup>4</sup> *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV)

A. In Christ, differences \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

B. In Christ, selfishness is transformed to \_\_\_\_\_

C. In Christ, we can \_\_\_\_\_ and safely.

3. Conflict must be \_\_\_\_\_ or it will \_\_\_\_\_

**How to DEFUSE Conflict to stay Connected**

D \_\_\_\_\_ the problem (on your own). (Proverbs 15:14)

E \_\_\_\_\_ a time to talk. (Matthew 5:23-24)

F \_\_\_\_\_ on the perceived problem, not the person. (Proverbs 18:19)

U \_\_\_\_\_ the root problem. (Proverbs 20:5)

S \_\_\_\_\_ things right between you. (James 5:16)

E \_\_\_\_\_ a specific action plan. (James 1:22-25)