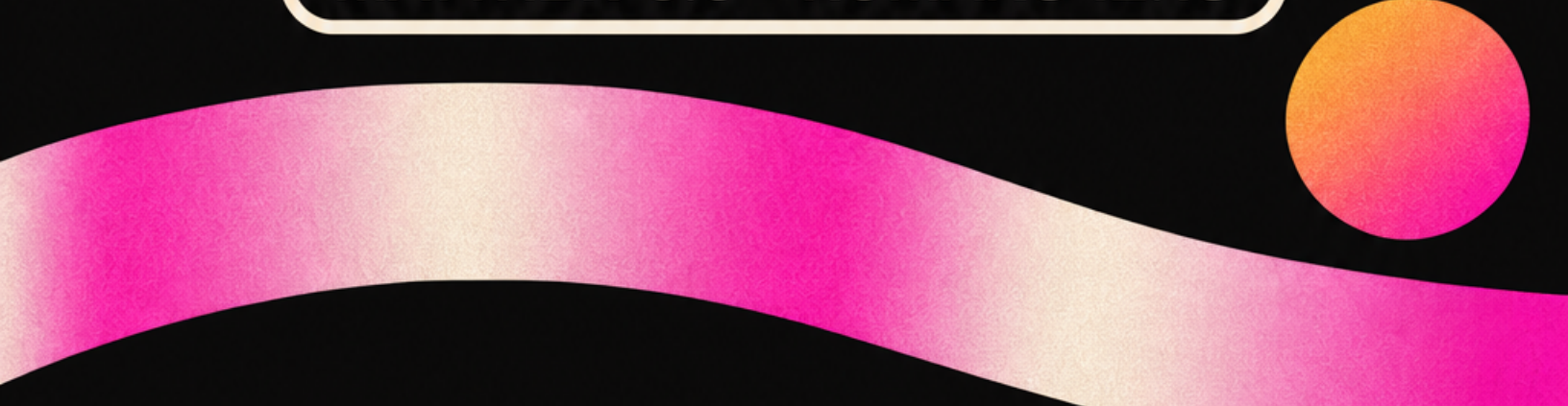




CONFLICT

RESOLUTION

MATTHEW 5:9 – ROMANS 12:18



Conflict Resolution

([Matthew 5:9](#), NKJV)

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

([Romans 12:18](#), NKJV)

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Introduction

- **John Stott**, *The Cross of Christ*: The gospel is reconciliation; resolved conflict reflects the cross.
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, *Life Together*: The Christian community only survives with constant forgiveness.
- **Matthew Henry Commentary** on Acts 15:36-40: The disagreement between Paul and Barnabas did not prevent the advancement of the Kingdom.

Bible history

Acts 15:37–39 → Barnabas wants to take **John Mark**;

Paul opposes it, and Paul and Barnabas end up separating because of the disagreement.

Colossians 4:10 → Years later, Paul mentions “**Mark, the cousin of Barnabas**” and asks that they receive him.

2 Timothy 4:11 → Later, Paul says, “Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”

Hechos 15:37–40 → Conflicto y separación.

2 Timoteo 4:11 → Restauración y reconocimiento.

Conflict is Part of Life, but It Does Not Have to Be Sin

- Conflict is inevitable, but the way we handle it reveals **our spiritual maturity**.

James 4:1

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

- The Bible is not silent regarding conflicts; it offers us spiritual tools to face them with love, truth, and restoration.

1. Roots of Conflict:

Where do disagreements come from?

A. Uncontrolled fleshly desires

- James 4:1-2 – “Where do wars and fights come from...? From your passions...”
- Proverbs 13:10 – Certainly pride will conceive contention; But with the well-advised is wisdom.

B. Lack of clear or loving communication

- Proverbs 18:13 – “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”
- Ephesians 4:29 – **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

C. Legitimate differences handled poorly

- Acts 15:36-39 – Paul and Barnabas: a legitimate difference ended in separation.

- Romans 14 – Differences of opinion should not break fellowship... There will always be personal opinions.

II. Biblical Principles for Resolving Conflicts

1. Examine yourself first

- Matthew 7:3-5 – “First remove the plank from your own eye...”

Matt 7:3 And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the plank that is in your own eye?

Matt 7:4 Or how will you say to your brother: Let me remove the speck from your eye, and behold, there is a plank in your own eye?

Matt 7:5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- Psalm 139:23-24 – Ask God to examine your heart.

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my thoughts;

Psa 139:24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

A. Paul as a man of strong convictions

- Acts 9:1-2 – He persecuted with misguided zeal.

Acts 9:1 Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

Acts 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any men or women who belonged to this Way, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- Galatians 1:13-14 – after the conversion Paul explains what was happening. “In Judaism I advanced beyond many... **being more, Jealous**”

Gal 1:13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and ravaged it;

Gal 1:14 and in Judaism I advanced beyond many of my contemporaries in my nation, being much more zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

- Philippians 3:5-6 – His lineage and zeal: blameless according to the law.

Phil 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Phil 3:6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

B. Useful character, but not yet refined

- 2 Corinthians 12:7 – A thorn was given to him so that he would not exalt himself.

2 Cor 12:7 And lest the greatness of the revelations should exalt me beyond measure, a thorn in my flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure;

- 2 Timothy 2:24-25 – Paul now teaches: the servant of the Lord must not be contentious.

2 Tim 2:24 For the servant of the Lord must not be contentious, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patient;

2 Tim 2:25 correcting with gentleness those who oppose, in case perhaps God may grant them repentance so that they may know the truth.

Note

God does not eliminate strong character; He redirects it for His glory. **“It is important to redirect it spiritually”**
Conflict reveals what needs to be transformed.

2. Seek reconciliation, not victory

- Romans 12:18 – “As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:7 – “Why do you not rather accept wrong?”
- Matthew 18:15-17 – Procedure for restoring a brother.
- Galatians 6:1 – Restore with a spirit of gentleness.

3. Learn to yield on secondary matters

- Romans 14:1-4 – Do not judge on matters of opinion.
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 – Paul becomes “all things to all people.”

4. Speak the truth in love

- Ephesians 4:15 – “Speaking the truth in love...”
- Proverbs 15:1 – “A soft answer turns away wrath.”
- Proverbs 27:6 – “Faithful are the wounds of one who loves...”

5. Confront with humility and in private

- Matthew 18:15-17 – Clear steps: speak first in private, then with witnesses, then before the church.
- Galatians 6:1 – Restore with a spirit of gentleness.

6. Forgive as Christ forgave

- Ephesians 4:31-32 – “Forgive one another as God forgave you...”
- Matthew 18:21-22 – Do not limit forgiveness.
- Colossians 3:13 – “Bearing with one another...”

7. Do not let anger linger

- Ephesians 4:26 – “Be angry, but do not sin...”
- Hebrews 12:14-15 – A root of bitterness defiles many.

III. Spiritual Tools for Maintaining Peace

A. Prayer and dependence on the Spirit

- Philippians 4:6-7 – Peace comes when we pray and surrender our burdens.
- Galatians 5:22 – The fruit of the Spirit includes peace, patience, and gentleness.

B. Heavenly wisdom

- James 3:17 – “The wisdom that is from above is... peaceable, gentle, willing to yield...”

C. Love as the perfect bond

- 1 Corinthians 13:5 – Love “keeps no record of wrongs.”
- Colossians 3:14 – Love is the perfect bond.

IV. Biblical Examples of Conflict and Reconciliation

- Genesis 50:15-21 – Forgiveness instead of revenge: “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said: Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and will repay us for all the evil we did to him.

16 And they sent word to Joseph, saying: Your father commanded before he died, saying:

17 Thus you shall say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive now the wickedness of your brothers and their sin, because they treated you badly; therefore, now we beg you to forgive the wickedness of the servants of the God of your father. And Joseph wept while they spoke.

18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said: Behold, we are your servants.

19 And Joseph answered them: Do not be afraid; am I in the place of God?

20 You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about what we see today, to keep many people alive.

21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your children. Thus he comforted them, and spoke to their hearts (**Genesis 50:15–21, RVR60**)

B. David and Saul

- 1 Samuel 24 – David could have killed Saul, but chose honor.
- Romans 12:19 – “Do not avenge yourselves...”

Romans 12:19, RVR60,

19 Do not avenge yourselves, my beloved, but give place to the wrath of God; for it is written: Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.

C. Ministerial Conflicts: When Men of God Clash

.....The case of Paul and Barnabas (conflict over Mark)

- Acts 15:36-40 – The disagreement was so sharp that they separated.

Acts 15:36 After some days, Paul said to Barnabas: Let us go back and visit the brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing.

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas wanted to take with them John, whose surname was Mark;

Acts 15:38 but Paul did not think it was good to take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 And there arose such a sharp disagreement between them that they separated from one another; Barnabas, taking Mark, sailed to Cyprus,

Acts 15:40 and Paul, choosing Silas, departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of the Lord,

D. Paul and Mark (restoration after conflict)

- Acts 15:38-40 Paul rejects Mark, but later considers him useful.

(Acts 15:38–40, RVR60)

38 but Paul did not think it was good to take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there arose such a sharp disagreement between them that they separated from one another; Barnabas, taking Mark, sailed to Cyprus,

40 and Paul, choosing Silas, departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

- Note: Both continue in ministry; they do not become stagnant.

.....Restoration of Mark

- 2 Timothy 4:11 – “Take Mark... because he is useful to me for ministry.”

2 Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.

- Colossians 4:10 – Paul mentions him as a fellow worker.

Col 4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions; if he comes to you, receive him.

Practical application:

Spiritual maturity is measured not only by biblical knowledge, but by the ability to live in peace with others and resolve disagreements with humility.

Conclusion:

Conflict Is Not the End, but an Instrument of God.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God...” — Romans 8:28

- God uses conflicts to shape our character.
- Restoration glorifies God more than justified pride.
- The testimony of the gospel is strengthened when believers resolve conflicts as Christ would.

Peacemakers Reflect Christ

- Jesus is our supreme model (Isaiah 53:7 – “like a lamb He was led to the slaughter... and He did not open His mouth”).
- Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of the character of Christ in the midst of it.
- Resolving conflicts is not weakness; it is obedience to God.