

Relationships are a part of life, and they are often messy. Today Paul gives us a biblical model for conflict resolution. Conflicts and fights, even among Christians, are a part of life. We should not be content to just let them happen, but we should seek to deal with these issues. Paul points our attention to something greater than ourselves. The Lord has called us, transformed us, and equips us to live in a godly manner.

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Songs of Praise

Lamb of God Holy Spirit

Announcements and Offering

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Confession of Faith

New City Catechism #3 and 4

Q3 How many persons are there in God?

A. There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Reference - 2 Corinthians 13:14

Q3 How and why did God create us?

A. God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

Reference - Genesis 1:27

Song of Declaration

Sinking Deep

Sermon - Conflict Management

Sermon Scripture - Philippians 3:17-21

Introduction

It's often easier for Christian fellowship to deal with false teaching than personal differences. These can be almost as deadly, dividing the fellowship, sowing seeds of bitterness, and diverts attention from central issues. How effectively we handle these differences may say more about the biblical character of our church than how we handle heresy. - **Sinclair Ferguson**

Stand Firm

- What are the 3 purposes of practicing church discipline?
- How does Paul address the Philippians in Philippians 4:1? What does this show?
- Why are we called to stand firm?
 - Matthew 5:10-12

Agree

• What is Paul's main exhortation to the two women? What is the basis for this call?

- Philippians 1:27
- Philippians 2:2
- Why is this such a big deal (Proverbs 6:16-19)?
 - "Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to further its purity and peace?" *5th vow upon joining the church*
- How does Philippians 2:5 relate to this passage?

Help

- Why does Paul call on his "companion" to help?
- What happens when we are not united as Christians?
- What is Paul's final exhortation?
 - Philippians 4:5

Communion

Song of Response

My Heart Is Yours

Benediction

- 1. Do you believe the way we handle conflict is an indication of the health of a church and its members?
- 2. What comes to mind when you hear church discipline? Have you ever seen it done poorly? Well?
- 3. Read Matthew 5:10-12. How does Jesus offer us hope and encouragement in our current circumstances?

- 4. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What stands out about this list? Do any of these surprise you?
- 5. How do we promote unity among the entire church?
- 6. Who are the people in your life that are "faithful companions?