

COMMUNITY IS THE CHURCH

WHEN COMMUNITY GETS MESSY

Week 3 / Biblical conflict in community

Our first instinct

Conflict makes me want to _____.

What did you learn?

How did your family handle conflict when you were growing up?

Take two minutes with a neighbor. Share only what you want to share.

When friction helped

Think of a disagreement that helped you grow.
What made it constructive?

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)

CONFLICT

Relational friction
from differences

“What can I learn
from your view?”

CONFRONTATION

Addressing identifiable sin
for restoration

“How can we seek
repentance and repair?”

Three anchors for the room

Proverbs 27:17

Difference can sharpen us

Matthew 18:15 / Galatians 6:1

When sin is present, pursue restoration gently

THE UNDIVIDED GOSPEL

Joel Maginnis / 1 Corinthians 1

OPEN SERMON AT ANTHEMCHURCH.NET

Watch a selected 5–7 minute segment, then discuss.

Difference and division

What stood out from the sermon?

When does a difference become a faction?

What can compete with Jesus for our loyalty?

Conflict or confrontation?

A group disagrees about how structured the weekly gathering should be.

Someone shares a private prayer request after agreeing to confidentiality.

What changes the category?

Two friends disagree over a Bible passage.

A person repeatedly mocks someone in the group.

A friend knowingly lies to harm a member’s reputation.

What else would you need to know?

A member arrives 15 minutes late
to almost every gathering.

What could you ask before making a judgment?

PAIR PRACTICE

Should groups prioritize structured Bible study or unstructured time?

Choose opposite positions, even if you disagree with your assigned view.



During the conversation

1 Summarize until your partner says, “Yes.”

2 Ask one genuine question.

3 Name something you appreciate.

4 Say what you may reconsider.

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When friction becomes division

What habits turn an ordinary disagreement into a fracture?

James 1:19–20 / quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger

When does love require speaking?

Is this clearly sin or mainly my preference?

Would overlooking it show love or feed resentment?

Do I want restoration or vindication?

Have I examined my own part?

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WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

A friend joked at your expense.
You laughed, but you felt hurt.
You are unsure what they intended.

Try a first sentence with a partner.



When sin is clear

A close friend repeatedly lies about something significant and seems unconcerned.

How would your posture and words change?

Case lab

A Someone regularly challenges your opinions during group discussion.

B Two members strongly disagree about a ministry spending priority.

Three more situations

C Someone complains about a member to others but never speaks to them.

D A member takes a different view on a secondary doctrine.

E Someone speaks harshly to their spouse in front of the group.

Which direction do I move?

Toward the person?

Away from the person?

Around them to someone else?



Conflict can sharpen us.

Sin may require confrontation.

Confrontation seeks restoration.

Christ holds our community together.