

**Who Me? A Leader?
Leading in Conflict
Discover Church
Mark Phillips
5/17/2026**

Leadership is **Influence**

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- God is **love** “God is love.” 1 John 4:8
- God is **judgmental**

“For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:34-37

Don’t be in Conflict with God

1. What did you **expect**?

What did you expect was going to happen?

It is possible...

- to **receive** what you want and **lose** what you need
- to be **fed** and still be **faithless**
- to crave **blessings** while despising the **Blesser**

2. **Justice** vs. **Vengeance**

a. God is for **Justice**

“And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.” Leviticus 19:15

b. The world says justice but means **Vengeance**

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.” Romans 12:18-19

3. Beware of **Itchy Ears**

“I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Solution to the Conflict

➤ Follow God’s **Game Plan** for Life

1. Lead with **Love**

- Tell the truth in love

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” Ephesians 4:15

- Love one another – *“Dear friends, let us love one another” 1 John 4:7*
- Love comes from God – *“for love comes from God” 1 John 4:7*
- If you don’t love, you don’t know God – *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8*
- God loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sins *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*

- Perfect love drives out fear “*perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.*” 1 John 4:18
- Love your brother and sister – “*And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister*” 1 John 4:21
- Love you neighbor – Matthew 22:39; Leviticus 19:18

Confrontation Principle: Caring for people should precede confronting people

2. Be **Salt** and **Light**

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:13-16

Situation Principle: Never let the situation mean more than the relationship

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Leadership is _____

• God is _____

• God is _____

Don't be in Conflict with God

1. What did you _____?

It is possible...

• to _____ what you want and _____ what you need

• to be _____ and still be _____

• to crave _____ while despising the _____

2. _____ vs. _____

a. God is for _____

b. The world says justice but means _____

3. Beware of _____

Solution to the Conflict

➤ Follow God's _____ for Life

1. Lead with _____

2. Be _____ and _____

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; 1 John 4; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 10:34-37; Micah 6:8; Leviticus 19:15; Romans 12:18-19; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 5:13-16

