

Sunday, May 28, 2023
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
PART 2: CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Last Sunday, we began a “fun” two-part series on Conflict Resolution. Last week, the focus was on conflict over differences in walking out our faith – how we live life. Today, we are going to focus on conflicts over things in the church. All of us are created beautifully with our own preferences and experiences. Isn't it great? How do those preferences and experiences work together in the church of Jesus Christ? “I like to listen to this speaker!” “I like this kind of worship music.” “I like it dark when I worship.” “I like it brightly lit.” “I don't like this particular minister!”

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (NKJV)

Differences of preference have been going on since the church began. It is nothing new. How do we handle them?

The church was created with you in mind but not for you alone.

You are a part of the body of Christ – an integral part. Yet, being a “part” of something implies that it is not all about you. Groups, organizations, communities all have the good of individual members in mind. But no group is all about one individual member. Each group focuses on its individual mission with members adapting for that mission. The church adapts to its mission. *Capstone's mission: to present Jesus.* To present Jesus will require each of us to adapt to a mission that reaches a diverse group of people.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22 (NKJV)

While one Savior fits all – one style does not fit all.

God uses the sacrifice of self-interest to meet the deepest needs of our own heart. God never ignores sacrifice. Where true sacrifice is, there you will find the presence of God. In His presence, there is healing for you.

There is a difference between corporate worship and private worship.

In your private time with God, you may include everything that you prefer – music style, particular version of the Bible, etc. When we come together corporately, the focus is on the common good. *Find excitement in unity rather than uniformity – in corporate exaltation of Jesus rather than individual gratification.* This brings us to the next point:

Your relationship with God is to make you holy not happy – conformed to Christ not comfortable in the flesh.

Our loyalty to Christ will be tested through our willingness to lay down our lives for Him and for others. *Humility is a hallmark of spiritual maturity.* One more thing: *I need to give others an opportunity to express their worship.* Guess what? It may not look like yours. If it is biblical, I need to allow it for the sake of the body of Christ.

Romans 16:17-18 (NKJV)

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (NKJV)
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 (NKJV)
- Romans 16:17-18 (NKJV)