

## **Altar Your Ego! (Conflict Resolution)**

**Romans 15:1-7** <sup>15</sup>We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God

### **Conflict affected the first Christians**

Peter said that God <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, [Gentiles], for he purified their hearts by faith, (Acts 15:9).

When Paul publicly confronted this hypocrisy, Peter didn't try to justify himself (Gal. 2:14, 16), <sup>14</sup> When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

(Gal. 2:16) <sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus

that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

1 Peter 2:9-10 reveals his conviction that through faith in Christ, Gentiles could now be called “the people of God,” on equal ground with Jewish believers.<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **How should we confront conflict?**

#### **A. We need to recognize the cause.**

- a. Conflict may result from different opinions
- b. A personality clash
- c. Miscommunication
- d. Or jealousy
- e. Roots in Rebellion against authority
- f. Emotional Baggage from childhood or previous relationship
  - i. Parents, Sibs, etc.

### **How should we confront conflict?**

#### **B. We need to consider the effects of conflict.**

**First**, some try to **suppress** the conflict: they recognize a problem but decide to do nothing about it.

**Second**, others **repress** it. In other words, they deny that the conflict even exists.

Did you know that **unresolved disagreement** divides our minds; contributes to health problems, and hinders our emotions. It causes unnecessary pain and disappointment.

**Unresolved conflict** keeps us from being motivated to serve, affects our health, it causes us to have difficulty plugging into a church, it also blocks our fellowship with God and delays our personal or spiritual growth.

**As a Child of God, how can we respond wisely to conflict? Maybe first – You should Altar your Ego!**

**How can you respond wisely to conflict? 8 ways**

- 1. How can you respond wisely to conflict? You ask the Holy Spirit for discernment.**
- 2. How can you respond wisely to conflict? You maintain a quiet spirit.**
- 3. How can you respond wisely to conflict? Make no attempt to justify yourself immediately.**
- 4. How can you respond wisely to conflict? Ask the Holy Spirit to guard your mouth.** Psalm 141:3 says, “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.” Some of you need more than a door - you need a steel vault over your lips.

(Luke 12:12) - <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

**5. How can you respond wisely to conflict? View the conflict as coming from God.**

**6. How can you respond wisely to conflict? Ask the Holy Spirit if it's you that's really at fault.**

**KEY:** Humility is always the correct response to disagreements.

**7. How can you respond wisely to conflict? Forgive the one responsible for the conflict (Eph. 4:32)** <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Jesus provided the perfect example of this. During the crucifixion, He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

**8. How can you respond wisely to conflict? Ask God to reveal His purpose for allowing the conflict.**