

Conflict Management

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”

Mt. 11:12

“Conflict is inevitable for leaders, and it exists at the root of some of their best ideas and at the core of many of their worst failures.¹”

Unresolved conflict

- Blocks fellowship with God 1 John 4:20; James 4:4
- Blocks prayers from being answered 1 Peter 3:7
- Blocks happiness James 3:18

What happens when we resolve conflict

- Increases our faith: David and Goliath 1 Sam 17:26
- Increases our wisdom: David’s response to Saul 1 Sam 21:10; 1 Sam 27:1
- Increases respect: Abigail and David, 1 Sam 25:35
- Increases our capacity to love; Isaiah 58:9-12; 1 Cor 13
 - Ex: Jesus on the cross faced the ultimate conflict and gained the ultimate victory
 - Ex. David faced conflict throughout his life and is known as a “Man after God’s own heart.” Jer 22:1

Handling conflict

- **#1 Slide 10 Face the conflict:**
 - Ask God for wisdom, time and place/purpose for confronting
 - James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- **#2 Slide 11 Make the first move:**
 - Determine to make first move:
 - God pursued us after the fall. Gen 3:8
 - Mt. 5:23-24 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.
- **Slide 12 Blockers**

¹ Runde, Craig E.. Becoming a Conflict Competent Leader (J-B CCL (Center for Creative Leadership)) (pp. 1-2). Wiley. Kindle Edition.

- You can have differences of opinion, but have respect for the relationship and differences.
 - Rom 14:10 But why do you judge you or brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- **#7 Slide 17 Speak truth tactfully**
 - “Life and death are in the power of the tongue.” Pro 18:21
 - Eph 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ---from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
 - Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers.
 - Surround your words in love, and you will grow and mature
 - James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Result:

- We grow spiritually
- The Kingdom advances at the speed of relationship, it is where conflict likes to roost. When we get a handle on it, we will see a massive expansion of His kingdom.