

HANDLING CONFLICTS WITH OTHERS 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

CONFLICTS ARE PREDICTABLE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT WE DO WITH THEM, AND THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THEM IS HEAD ON.

I. MAKE AN APPEAL (v. 10)

The unity of a church is its glory...remove it and the church is disgraced.

Guarding the unity of the fellowship is the job of every member.

II. STATE THE CASE (v. 11-12)

A quarrelsome spirit is a carnal spirit.

“Fractured fellowship robs Christians of joy and effectiveness, robs God of glory, and robs the world of the true testimony of the gospel. A high price for an ego trip!”—John MacArthur Jr.

III. BRING PERSPECTIVE (v. 13)

All those who came here this morning to worship the preacher may withdraw from the church; all who came to worship God may remain.

IV. RESOLVE ISSUES (v. 14-16)

Issues of personal division are often resolved by application of biblical doctrine.

To extinguish a blaze you must remove one of the essential elements of combustion.

V. RESTORE FOCUS (v. 17)

When people in conflict get focused on the Lord instead of each other, they will be united in purpose.

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE WITH CONFLICTS:

1. They are inevitable.
2. They are fleshly.
3. They are destructive.
4. They are resolvable.
5. They are instructive. They tell about people and give us spiritual insights.
6. They are vulnerable to humility and honesty.
7. They are functional. They present opportunities for growth, new ministry, new effectiveness.