

“Conflict is an inevitable and unavoidable part of life.”

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²⁷And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they remained no little time with the disciples. ¹But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

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²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

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⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.” —Acts 14:27-15:5 ESV

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When Conflict Arises... (Acts 15:1)
We Must Identify Issues
That are Crucial

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Reasons For Conflict

Preferences

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Reasons For Conflict

Personalities

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JOHN ORTBERG
author of *IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER,
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT*
EVERYBODY'S
NORMAL
TILL
YOU GET TO
KNOW THEM

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Reasons For Conflict

Pride

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“Pride leads to conflict;
those who take advice are wise.”
—Proverbs 13:19 NLT

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¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. —James 4:1-3 ESV

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Reasons For Conflict

Past

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“Hurting people hurt people.”

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Reasons For Conflict

Principles

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⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith...

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¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith”... ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. —Acts 3:7-9, 11, 13-14 ESV

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When Conflict Arises... (Acts 15:6-12)

Honor Counsel That is Credible

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¹⁰Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. —Acts 15:10-11 ESV

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When Conflict Arises... (Acts 15:12)

Seek Solutions That are Scriptural

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¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. —2 Peter 3:15-16 ESV

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⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. —Titus 3:4-7 ESV

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When Conflict Arises... (Acts 15:23-29)

Provide Communication That is Clear and Simple

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²³...“The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,

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²⁵it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

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²⁸For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

—Acts 15:23-29 ESV

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When Conflict Arises...

Recognize Conflict Can Bring Change
That is Not Easy, But Essential

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Paul vs. Barnabas

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⁹Do your best to come to me soon.
¹⁰For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry... ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.
—2 Timothy 4:9-11, 13 ESV

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