

Conflict resolution

Acts 15:1-35

Good conflict can produce great results.

1. Conflict is inevitable. (Acts 15:1-18)

- a. We all see our life experiences and faith through different perspectives.
- b. God's word can help us to understand God's will.
 - Anyone who attempts to add pre-requisites to receiving the gospel, does not understand the gospel.
 - In conflict with believers, God's inspired word ought to be our highest standard.
- c. We need to remember who our true enemy is.
- d. It is hypocritical to trade conviction for convenience.
(Gal 2:11-13)

2. Good conflict provides opportunities. (Acts 15:19-35)

- a. The gospel is lived out through our actions with one another.
- b. The ultimate goal of conflict is restoration.
 - Speak truth in love.
 - Timing matters.
 - Accept assistance.
 - Yield for the benefit of others.
- c. Unity amidst diversity can lead to beautiful harmony.

Questions for application and discussion:

- a. Why is avoiding conflict so dangerous?
- b. Why do you believe God included such a detailed description of this particular conflict in His word?
- c. Why is it important to avoid adding pre-requisites to the gospel?
- d. How have you personally seen conflict provide opportunities?