



CONFLICT

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ACTS
CHAPTER 15

Arianism

“There was when he was not.”

**The Church resolves its conflict
through loving confrontation.**

L – List out of the important issues

O – The key stakeholders Offer their perspectives

V – A leader Volunteers a spiritually-based solution

E – They leaders Engage the community of believers

Loving Confrontation

List out the issues.

Acts 15:1

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:5

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

A Different Gospel

Jesus died to save you from your sins and to reconcile you to God, therefore, repent, accept Jesus as Lord and confirm your faith by circumcision and obedience to the law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him **everyone who believes** is set free from every sin, a **justification** you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.”

Acts 13:43

When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in **the grace of God.**

What is the heart of the conflict?

When it comes to successfully managing conflict you not only have to sort through competing ideologies, you have to reconcile people.

Loving Confrontation

L – List out the important issues.

O - The key stakeholders Offer their perspectives.

Acts 15:7-8

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might **hear** from my lips **the message of the gospel and believe**. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He did to us.”

Acts 15:9-11

He did not discriminate between us and them, for **he purified their hearts by faith.** Now then, why do you try to test God by putting a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.**

Acts 15:12

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Proverbs 18:17

In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross examines.

Barriers to Healthy Conflict

Fear of Conflict

Proverbs 29:25 – The **fear of man** will prove to be a snare, but whoever **trusts in the Lord** is kept safe.

Barriers to Healthy Conflict

Undue Harshness

Proverbs 18:1 – An **unfriendly** person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment **starts quarrels**.

Their arguments are an expression of
love for God and the church.

Loving Confrontation

L – List out the important issues.

O - The key stakeholders Offer their perspectives.

V – Volunteer a spiritual solution.

Proverbs 18:13

To answer a matter before listening is folly and shame.

Acts 15:19-21

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moses is preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.



Loving Confrontation

L – List out the important issues.

O - The key stakeholders Offer their perspectives.

V – Volunteer a spiritually-based solution.

E – Engage the entire community

Acts 15:22

Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.

Commitment comes as a result of real unity and is always to be preferred over artificial harmony.

The Value of Counsel

Proverbs 11:14

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for a lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Real unity comes through dealing with conflict forthrightly and graciously and is a by-product of loving confrontation.

Acts 15:30-32

So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. **The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.** Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

Acts 15:33-35

After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with **the blessing of peace** to return to those who had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, **where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.**

Nicene Creed of 325 AD

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is, **from the substance of the Father**, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, **of one substance** with the Father, through Whom all things came into being, things in heaven and things on earth, Who because of us humans and because of our salvation came down and became incarnate, becoming human, suffered and rose again the third day, ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and the dead; And in the Holy Spirit.



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