

Introduction: We will speak to five aspects of this topic:

- 1) The damage caused by conflict
- 2) How to deal with our own conflicts
- 3) Dealing with Conflicts in our group/organization/church/family
- 4) How to be an agent of healing in any setting
- 5) How to help from a distance

Biblical Background - Old Testament (**Group**) Kinds of Conflict

Conflicts in the New Testament - **Group**

Biblical Expectations – How will this get fixed?

Current Setting (organization, politics, church music, etc.)

I. How much damage does conflict do? SMALL GROUPS (7 minutes)

What damage has conflict caused in your life? What does it do to you? (our spirits, morale, perspective, peace of mind, motivation, energy level, etc.) Share in twos or threes (as you are comfortable) – 10 minutes. What happened? How did you cope? What did you learn? What was the impact of that conflict on you?

Suppose you were the wounder. What did you do? Is this resolved? How did you resolve it?

II. How do we usually deal with our conflicts (past and present)? Biblical examples. (Whole Group Discussion) Our resolution style

Choose one: avoid the offender; pretend everything is ok; withdraw; gossip; seek help; other? Biblical examples

A suggested plan (some resolutions):

Resolutions or Principles we must follow to resolve our conflicts of the past. Do we have a plan to help ourselves when we are hurt or offended? Or when we become aware that someone is at odds with us for some reason?

III. How to deal with conflicts in our organizations/group/church/family;

Remember: Conflict can be beneficial. How?

Focus on missions. What's unique about missionary conflict?

What could we do, as an observer, or as a participant in a (church or missions) conflict? How can we be agent of healing in these mission situations?

Suggested principles: We can...

Self examination.

IV. How can we be agents of healing in our circles of relationship or influence?

Discuss & Record

V. How can we help from a distance? Examples

Reminders

Role Play

Observations

VI. Principles to live by.

VII. Take-aways.

Reading list.

Karen Ehman, *Keep It Shut*
Lyn Klug, Ed. *A Forgiving Heart*
Alexander Strauch, *If You Bite & Devour One Another*
Tannen, Deborah, *The Argument Culture*
Other?