

**Answer Key:**

**In Fact**

- opportunity
- expect
- choose
- peace
- forgive
- resolution
- avoid

1. Expect

**Conflict is inevitable for three reasons.**

- incomplete
- engineers
- proclaim

2. Pause

**Nehemiah Models**

- spoke
- privately
- best

3. Look

**What if I do nothing?**

- fellowship
- prayers.
- happiness

**September 10, 2023**

**You asked for it!**

**Part 1**

Conflict....

**James 4:1 NCV**

***"Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you."***

**Introductory Statement**

***Among the major barriers to following God's way is conflict. For most of us, conflict is stressful, upsetting physically and mentally, and something to avoid at all costs. However, conflict is inevitable.***

***We need to realize that while conflict is inevitable, misery is optional.***

**In Fact,...**

- In fact, conflict can be an \_\_\_\_\_ for God to work in our lives and help deepen our faith.
- We should \_\_\_\_\_ God to do something great in the midst of conflict.
- We need to \_\_\_\_\_ God's way and reject the world's way of responding to conflict.
- The Bible tells us to live in \_\_\_\_\_, as much as it is possible.

- Having forgiven ourselves, we are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
- Forgiveness lets us work toward a \_\_\_\_\_ without escalation or a victory dance.
- We cannot escape some conflict in life, but we can \_\_\_\_\_ the misery others experience in conflict.

## Conflict....

### Setting

Acts 15:36-39

***"After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus."***

1. \_\_\_\_\_ it!

James 1:2-4 NIV

***"My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything."***

## Conflict is inevitable for three reasons.

- Our knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Satan \_\_\_\_\_ conflict whenever and wherever possible especially amongst Christians.
- Whenever we \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.

*...conflict is here to stay and we must learn to manage it in a Christian.*

### Psalm 139: 23 -24 NIV

*"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

## Conflict....

2. \_\_\_\_\_ it!

### Nehemiah 5:6-7 NLT

***"When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, "You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!" Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem."***

### Nehemiah Model...

- Nehemiah paused to think before he \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nehemiah resolved conflict \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nehemiah appealed to the \_\_\_\_\_ in people.

## **Matthew Model...**

**Matthew 18:15-17 NLT**

***"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."***

## **Steps...**

- If it is personally - handled privately
- A Christian is to take one or two other believers and meet.
  - Go before the local church.
  - Removing the negative.

***Conflicts must be resolved for relationships, work environments, and churches to have peace once again. If conflicts are left unresolved, problems, broken relationships, and bitterness can grow.***

## **Three types of Conflict in the church**

- There are interpersonal conflicts
- There are ministry conflicts.
- There are doctrinal conflicts.

***Conflicts can be controversial, stressful, and draining. Whenever there is a conflict, it is essential for Christians to have proper biblical conflict resolution. Conflict resolution needs to be practiced by all people because conflicts cannot be left untreated.***

**Proverbs 4:23 NLT**

***"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."***

## Conflict....

3. \_\_\_\_\_ at it!

### **Philippians 2:4-5 NLT**

*"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had".*

***Hurt people hurt people!***

### **9 Ways to Handle Conflict Biblically...**

1. First, do nothing. ...
2. Exhibit self-control. ...
3. Stop, think—and pray. ...
4. Ask, Is the issue worth pressing? ...
5. Evaluate your own attitudes, strengths, and weaknesses. ...
6. Follow scriptural principles. ...
7. Ask questions for clarification. ...
8. Discover together things on which you do agree.

## **What if I do nothing?**

*(It has devastating effects in life.)*

- It blocks your \_\_\_\_\_ with God

### **1 John 4:20 NLT**

*"If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar".*

- Conflict hinders your \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Isaiah 59:2 NLT**

*"It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore".*

- Conflict hinders your \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Psalms 119:35 NLT**

*"Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found.*

***When conflict comes in through the front door, happiness goes out the back door.***