

HERE AM I SEND ME

“Conflict Resolution”

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (July 28, 2013)

LIVE EVENT via YouVersion app: <http://bible.com/e/11qv>

Text: Acts 15:36-41

Introduction: We are continuing our series entitled “Here Am I, Send Me: The Acts of the Apostles.” In order to understand our lesson for today I think we need to back up to **Matthew 22:35-40**. What are the greatest commandments? Did you notice that they are relationship commandments? Relationships can lead to conflict, but conflict can be useful. We need to be prepared for conflict. Let’s study together

Discussion:

I. Conflict Between Members

- A. There are four levels of conflict: *Problem to Solve, Disagreement, Contest, Fight*
- B. There are several conflicts in the book of Acts.
- C. There will be conflicts in relationships (**Colossians 3:12-21**).
- D. There will be conflicts among brethren (**Matthew 18:15-17**).

II. Conflict Between Preachers

- A. There was a major conflict between Paul and Barnabas.
- B. It is unfair to see this only from Paul’s viewpoint.
- C. We have to remember that good came from this situation.
- D. Notice that the conflict was not resolved.

III. Conflict Between Congregations

- A. Keep a biblical perspective on ALL of these issues.
- B. Major areas of conflict: *Lack of Biblical Authority, Worship styles, Divorce/Remarriage, Elders/Leadership, Role of Women, A Lack of Love*
- C. What is the driving force behind all church growth? Could it lead to conflict?
- D. John D. Cox gives us the “12 Causes of Church Conflicts.”

IV. Resolving Conflict Before It’s Too Late

- A. What is the “Problem Centered Approach?”
- B. What are the five “nevers” of conflict?
- C. Biblical passages: **Proverbs 15:1, Matthew 6:15, 7:12, 13:15-18, John 13:34-35, I Corinthians 13, Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 12:14**
- D. Why are some conflicts never resolved?

Conclusion: One of the greatest ways to stop conflict at the source is to spend more time getting to know each other and love one another! Do you love your brothers/sisters enough to deal with the conflict before it gets out of hand? Are you ready to say, “Here am I, send me!” Are you ready to be a living witness? Have you shared your story?