



## #11 "Church Fight!"

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

Raymond McDonald

August 03, 2014

**Sermon Notes**

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."  
Matthew 5:9*

**The Holy Spirit stimulates CREATIVE GROWTH**

**which STRETCHES US AND CAUSES FRICTION**

**but DESIRES AND IS PRESENT IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*

### **I. Acts 6:1 The Problem**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

### **Conflict Resolution BEGINS WITH IDENTIFYING AND STATING THE PROBLEM**

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32*

### **II. Acts 6:2-4 The Process**

<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We

will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

### **Conflict Resolution BRINGS CLARITY TO VALUES AND VISION**

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17*

#### **III. Acts 6:5-6 The Proposal**

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

### **Conflict Resolution REQUIRES HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING BOTH PERSPECTIVES**

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4*

#### **IV. Acts 6:7 The Payoff**

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

### **Conflict Resolution RESULTS IN INCREASED IMAGINATION AND EXPANDED EFFECTIVENESS**

*So watch yourselves. “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.” <sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” <sup>6</sup> He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. Luke 17:3-6*