

To All Peoples
How Not to Handle Conflict

Wyatt Martin // May 12, 2024
Acts 15:36-16:15

Big Idea: Conflict is inevitable, but it doesn't have to spiral out of control.

Acts 15:36

Conflict is inevitable.

Acts 15:37-38

Acts 13:13

Acts 15:39-41

Conflict spirals when we see the worst in others.

Seeing the worst in others:

- 1. John Mark is a betrayer.**
- 2. Barnabas is an enabler.**

Acts 4:36-37

- 3. Paul is a bully.**

So who's right?

John Mark was a betrayer, but he learns from his mistakes.

Barnabas can be an enabler, but he is also a bridge builder.

2 Timothy 4:11

Paul can be a bully, but no one is more passionate about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:24

Stopping the conflict spiral:

- 1. Pray for them.**

Matthew 5:44

- 2. Focus on the worst in yourself.**

Matthew 7:3-5

- 3. Remember Jesus died for sinners.**

Romans 5:8

- 4. Let go of control.**

Isaiah 55:8-9

- 5. Focus on faithfulness.**

John 14:15

3. Now have someone read **2 Timothy 4:11**. How has Paul's view of Mark changed? What does this teach us about how we should treat people with whom we are frustrated?
4. Take an inventory of your life. With whom are you in conflict or most prone to be in conflict? How can you **grow** in how you relate to and love those people?
5. What would it look like for you to set aside the conflict spiral and instead **go** to be a reconciler in your relational world?