



Next Meeting: March 24, 2023
Paul Phillips: 910-470-0870

**Conflict Provides Opportunity To Grow By:
Looking At Yourself & Looking At The Gospel**

1. Looking at Yourself:

Step Back

Know Yourself

- ◇ *It takes wisdom to know the best way to react:*
 - **Proverbs 19:11**—“Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.”
 - **Proverbs 15:1**— “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
 - **Proverbs 15:22** — “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Understanding a Common Pattern to Conflict

-**James 4:1-2**—“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill a covet, but you can not have what you want...so quarrel and fight.”

- Desire, Demand, Disappoint, Judge, Punish

2. Conflict Provides an Opportunity to Exercise the Gospel:

- ◇ *You are a Product of the Gospel*
 - *Matthew 18: Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*
- ◇ *Practice the Golden Rule*
 - *Luke 6:31: “Do to others as your would have them do to you.”*
- ◇ *Prayer*
 - *Numbers 14:1-20*



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Questions

1. Rate yourself on your ability to "step back" and examine yourself prior to entering into conflict. Do you tend to view conflict as an obstacle or opportunity?
2. Which side of the Slippery Slope do you gravitate to? How do you determine the best way to handle conflict?
3. Discuss the Downward spiral: Desire, Demand, Disappoint, Judge, Punish. When has a craving of yours lead to a conflict?
4. Exercising the Gospel: How can the Gospel give shape to your handling of conflict? Practicing the Golden Rule or Prayer for those in Conflict - Which one is more challenging for you? Why?



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