

Facing the Flames of Conflict

Life Bridge Community Church
Week 1 of 8



The Anatomy of Conflict

1. The Spark

Triggers: Where does conflict come from?

Diversity

Misunderstandings

Selfish attitudes

2. The Gasoline

Why do differences become conflicts? What's going on in the heart?

Cravings underlie conflict. A craving is: something I want so much (too much!) that I will sin to obtain it.

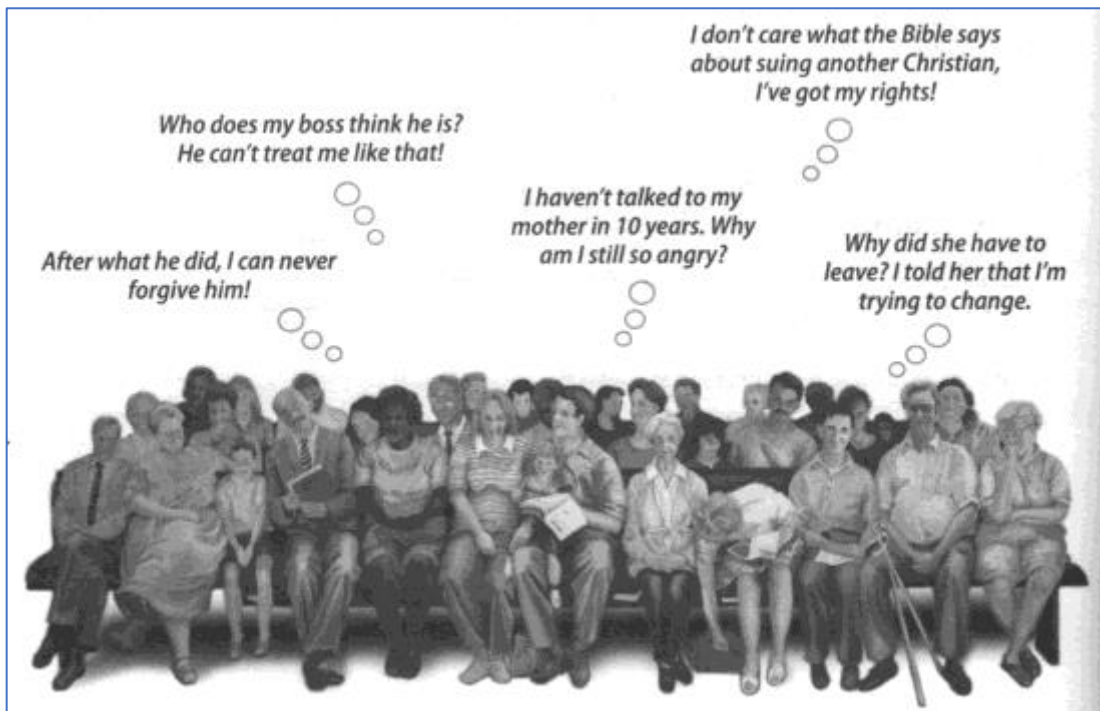
If I get angry when something I want is denied, it might be an idol.

The world tells us we have the absolute right to whatever we want.

The Bible says: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."
(Phil 2:4)

3. The Fire

The destructive effects of conflict



Is There Hope?

A radically different vision for relationships

See John 13:35, 17:23; Matthew 22:36-39; Ephesians 4:32

The power to love each other does not come from knowing that there is a command to do so or trying really hard to follow it.

Conflict as an Opportunity

One positive aspect about conflict is that it gives us the opportunity to be like Jesus (to sacrifice).

Discussion Question(s)

1. How are our cravings related to Philippians 2:4? Why do our cravings result in conflict?
2. What are your cravings? What do you fight over?
3. What is a practical step you could take toward preferring the interest of others in your closest relationships?