



What happens in a “green church” when conflict arises between its members? Are there warning signs we should be sensitive to? Is there a process we can follow when people simply don’t “get-along?” What makes us so confident that this particular “process” is from God?

Since we can’t avoid the reality of conflict among people in our church and since conflict between people will sap the strength of any healthy church, we need to have a God-centered plan to be initiated at a moment’s notice when people don’t see “eye-to-eye.” We are not talking about a plan that is built on power-plays or high-pressure tactics, but on the Gospel itself. Today this is exactly what we will do. We are glad that you are here today.

Date: 5.9.10

1. What you have been _____ – v.1 (see 1:27)
2. What you _____ – v.2
3. What is _____ you back – v.3
4. What will _____ you forward – v.4 and _____ – vv.6-11

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Target Practice: Use this resource to better apply the truths we discovered.

1. What is the background to this letter and why is 1:27 so important to the point Paul is making in this passage?
2. Looking back on a conflict you have had with another Christian what was it focused on? Was it focused on primarily your differences/personal opinions or on the common heritage you have in Jesus? Did you notice that how you answer this one question will determine the degree of resolution you achieved?
3. How does thinking like Jesus did (having the “mind of Christ” – v.5) provide for you all the strength needed to serve others and thereby deal with differences in a “green” way? How does the Gospel affect all conflict between true Christians?