



bits from bob....

Conflict Can Build Community: "Making Conflict a Healthy Positive"

December 1, 2019

Conflict and community sound like opposites. Often, they are companions. When you think of the people who are closest to you -- parents, spouse, best friends, children -- those are often relationships that have weathered the storms of life. When a relationship comes through storms, those involved become closer and more assured in the relationship.

The principle is true in the church. All churches will weather storms. Not all storms are conflicts. Storms come as a result of cancer, illnesses, moves, broken families, death, and job losses. Storms can bring members closer together.

These ideas will help guide relationships through storms or conflict.

- Do not be surprised -- difficulties bring people to a place of community
- Seek resources -- ask for help
- Cultivate love -- remind everyone that the group is committed to sticking together
- Reinforce identity -- plan activities that remind everyone what the family or group is about
- Pray -- ask the Lord to use this situation for good and His glory

Great families, and great churches, will go through the seasons and hard times. Depend on Jesus. He has called us to become like him. Difficulties and conflicts are part of the process.