



RELATIONSHIPS AND CONFLICTS

PROBLEM? WHAT PROBLEM?

LIST OF TOPICS

1. What is Discipleship
2. What is Missions
3. His Mission, not ours
4. Discerning God's Will
5. Helping the poor
6. Spiritual Readiness
7. Serving Cross-Culturally
8. Relationships and conflicts

ICEBREAKER

Share in one minute one new thing you learn from this series of webinars!

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Understand conflicts are inevitable in missions
- Encourage you to resolve conflict Biblically



1. CONFLICTS IN THE BIBLE

PAUL AND
BARNABAS



37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,

- Acts 15:37-39 (NIV)

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

- Acts 15:1-2 (NIV)

PAUL AND PETER

11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

- Galatians 2:11 (NIV)

11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas[b]"; still another, "I follow Christ."

-1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (NIV)

5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, **one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!**

- 1 Corinthians 6:5-6 (NIV)

RESOLUTION: PAUL AND JOHN MARK

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

- 2 Timothy 4:11 (NIV)



2. CONFLICTS IN MISSIONS

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

- Between you and your team members
- Between you and your sending church/supporters
- Between you and the people you are serving

- Satan is working overtime to destroy God's work
- you cannot avoid conflict

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS (CONT.)

- Generational conflicts
- Cultural conflicts

- Satan is working overtime to destroy God's work
- you cannot avoid conflict

A GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON MISSIONS ISSUES			
Issue	Boosters (Over 50)	Boomers (Ages 30–50)	Busters (Under 30)
Call	Mystical	Best job fit	"Best" mission: often most caring
Focus of commitment	Particular people or country with particular mission organisation	Ministry in which and wherever gifts are best used	Particular project
Length of commitment	Life	Short term and review	Short term
Attitude to mission agency	High loyalty	Low loyalty	Low loyalty
Leadership	Authoritarian; respect status	Participatory, consensus; respect competence	Participatory team; respect genuineness and openness
Approach to conflict	Indirect or denial	Clarify and work towards reconciliation	Direct, open, and honest
Attitude to support and pastoral care	Independent	Expect opportunity for both; willing to try and see	Perceive both as essential to well-being
Role issues	Generalists; prepared to do anything; make do	Specialists; pursue excellence; agents of change	Function best in teams, each with focused ministry
Wives' roles	Supporting husband	Contribution in own right	Prefer husband-wife team; egalitarian marriage
Devotional life	No Bible, no breakfast	Wherever it can be fitted in	Find discipline hard but long for spiritual things
Relationship to local community	Paternalistic	Fraternalistic	Work well under church

Source: Too Valuable to Lose by World Evangelical Alliance – Page 58

Talk about differences approach to issue can cause misunderstanding and conflict

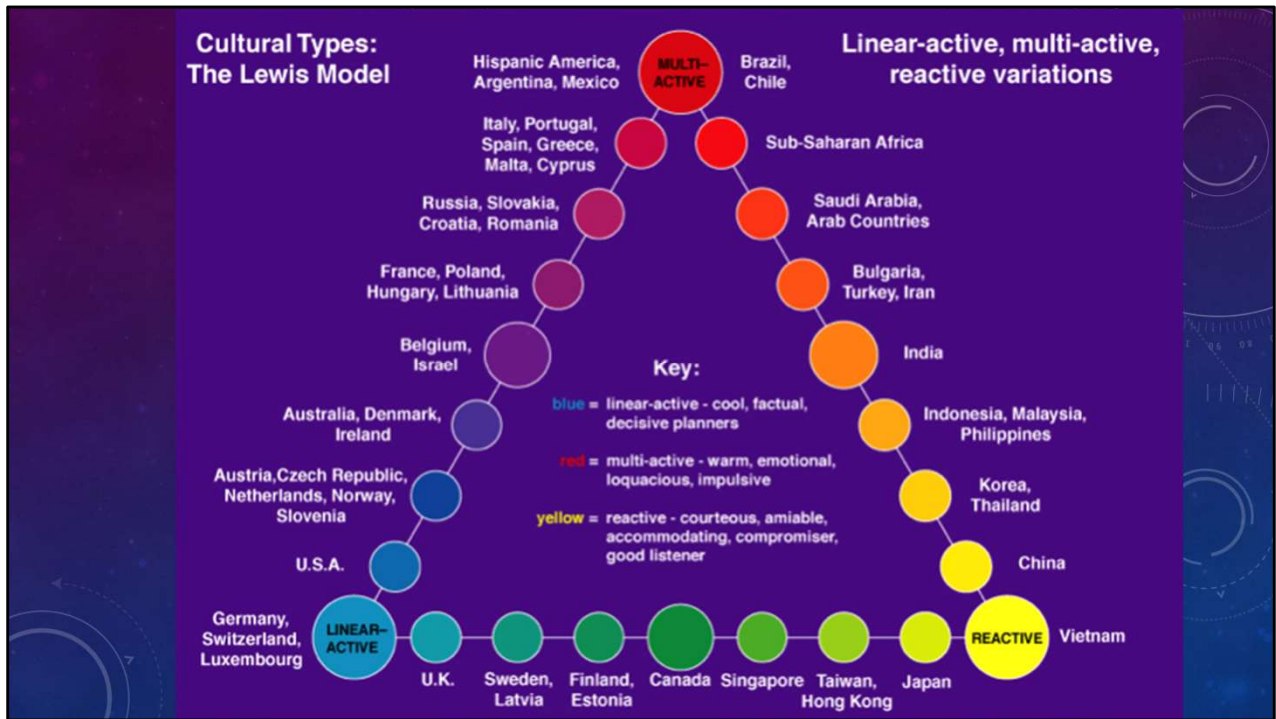


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Img source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lammermuir_Party#/media/File:Lammermuirparty.jpg

First party with Hudson Taylor as China Inland Mission

On the way to China, in the ship, amidst deadly storms, they had feud among theology

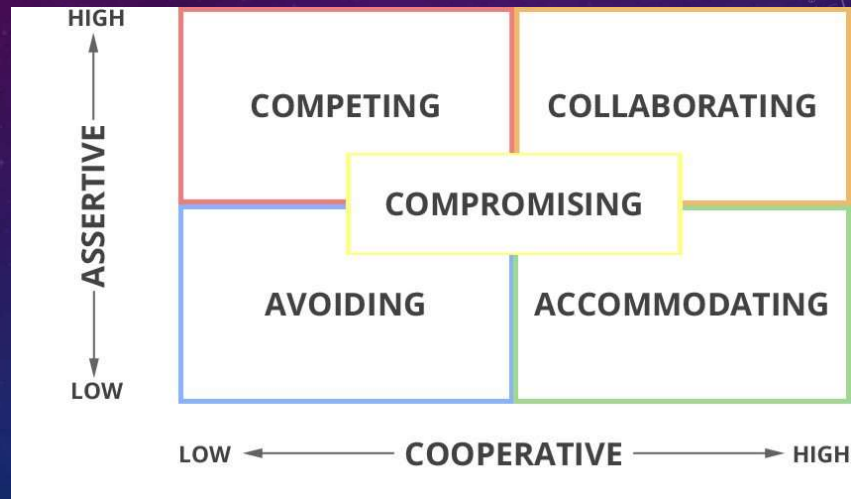
To the point where the party almost broke up before they landed

Hudson Taylor had to be the peacemaker



3. HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS BIBLICALLY

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH CONFLICT?



Img source: <https://www.projectmanagementqualification.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/conflict-management.jpg>

What is your primarily conflict style?



Biblical way to resolve conflict

1. REMOVE THE LOG FROM YOUR EYE

3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, **first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

- Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

Self reflection – did I contribute to this conflict? Or How am I responsible for this? Do I have a part to play?

We focus on ourselves first

But we not only focus on ourselves

We have to help others – no conflict avoidance

2. PROCESS OF RESOLUTION

15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the **two of you**. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, **take one or two others along**, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, **tell it to the church**; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

- Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

Point out in person

Bring another one or two along

Bring it before the church

3. FORGIVING, LOVE AND UNITY

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on **love**, which binds them all together in perfect **unity**.

- Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

4. NOT ALL CONFLICTS ARE REALLY CONFLICTS

Cross-cultural conflicts can be because of cultural differences



- Ask the students to sell and none did
- We talk to them in person
- Then we talk to the school supervisor
- unfortunately, the supervisor didn't see any issue

- What can we do? We can push, we can demand, we can rebuke but we choose to forgive and also love



Was our plan successful?

If it is focus on our goal, no it failed

but it didn't fail in a sense that there is protein for the bible school

The students can take the rabbits back to their village to farm

They have learn a new skill

Friendship – relationships

- They still talk to me once in a while
- Couple married and have kids

THANK YOU!

- Write to cliff.tam@gmail.com for any questions, suggestions, and thoughts!
- Feedback at bit.ly/audienceofonefeedback