

Conflict in Children's Ministry

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Where there are people, there will be conflict.

Even for those churches who get along most of the time, there can be disagreement. Are we ready for it?

Suggested Rules of Engagement

- Debate issues, not personalities.
 - Of course, sometimes personalities will need to be addressed.
- Principled dissent, not rebellion.
 - Some personalities may not know the difference and will need to be instructed graciously
- Love one another. Not just lip service, but actions and attitudes.
 - Protect the reputations of others from unfair treatment or slander and gossip.
 - Be more concerned for their feelings.
- Listen actively. Offer reflective feedback to be sure you heard them correctly.
- Do not interrupt
 - Corollary: do not engage in thinking of your own responses to the detriment of understanding correctly theirs.
- Develop self-awareness:
 - Non-verbal behaviors
 - Voice tone and volume
 - Internal attitude.

There are many types of conflict

- Interpersonal
 - Ideas, vision, personality, sinfulness
- External pressures
 - Facilities
 - Financial
 - Neighbors
- Write down your most pressing areas of conflict

Consider the possibility that you might be wrong on an issue. Is the feedback you are receiving valid to any degree? This may apply to certain facts, or to your attitude. Ask yourself how you might work to correct these issues.