

## Doctrine of Congregational Conflicts

### The Lessons that can be Learned

1. Conflict is in the hands of God to be used by Him for noble purposes.
  - *Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
  
2. Through the pressures of life people are relocated to be in the geographical will of the Lord.
  - *Acts 8:1-3 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*
  - *Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.*
  
3. Through the pressures of life God is able to build character and subdue sin in the soul.
  - Question. *“How can a person learn to “suffer long” if there is not someone to suffer long over”?*
  - Question. *“How can a person be tenderhearted and learn to forgive if no offenses are taken?”*
  - Question. *“How can a person be like Christ unless there is suffering like Christ?”*
  - Question. *“How can the awfulness of sin be subdue unless its results are revealed to the heart?”*
  - Question. *“How can the dark side of the soul be realized unless there is pressure to draw it forth?”* The sins of self-righteousness, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness and anger lies deeply buried in the hearts of people who have never really had to live by faith or been challenged on critical issues.
  
4. The call of Christ is for authentic relationships in the company of the committed. Christ modeled commitment to those He called unto Himself even when one man turned out to be a traitor.

5. Through the painful process of conflict the Lord drains off spiritual dross for the purpose of approval.
  - *1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. 19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. KJV*
  - *1 Corinthians 11:18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. NIV*
6. Through conflict the prayer of Christ is answered for the servant is not above the Master. If we are going to reign with Christ we must suffer with Him.