

INTRODUCTION

It is too often true that effective ministries are interrupted because those spearheading the work cannot get along with each other. Interpersonal conflict among Christian workers diverts energy and time from worthy objectives and presents to the Body of Christ and the world a poor example of the transforming power of the Gospel.

Christ commanded His disciples (then and now) to love one another. It follows that the Lord provides the grace and enablement necessary to obey such a command. If the interpersonal relations among Christian workers are less than they should be, it must be that there is neglect in observing the biblical instructions directed toward such relations. Also, there must be a lack of care in implementing principles already known.

Much has been written from a secular point of view on the subject of interpersonal relations, group dynamics, and personnel management. A fair amount of this material was read in preparation for this study. It should be pointed out, however, that in addressing the problem of conflict among Christian workers, it was the conviction of this author that the Bible itself should be the starting point and the source for solutions to interpersonal conflict. Since the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, and since God has provided, in the pages of Scripture, all that is needed "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"; (2 Tim.