

2. When there is a limited amount of time to deal with a problem, it is inconvenient to have to keep putting it back in the refrigerator again and again. There are those urgent matters that cannot wait for weeks to be settled.

Dr. Jay E. Adams has developed a helpful cooling device for family conferences. The family members are instructed to sit round a table, preferably not the one at which they eat. If one of the members becomes overly emotional and begins to attack another person the others are to stand up at their places and remain silent. The attacker finds this disconcerting and he usually backs off and agrees to go on according to the rules, (attack the problem, not persons).⁵

Such a procedure would be adaptable for team meetings. Especially those meetings that are called to resolve a conflict.

Repair

When people whom God intended to be together are torn apart by conflict, there is sin involved. Some may object, saying, "It's only a difference of opinion," but people can still be together in heart while differing in opinion. If the relationship is tense to the point of being uncomfortable, there is something more than a difference of opinion involved. If the relationship is held together only by the demands of propriety, but totally lacking in brotherly love (1 John 4:12-13) there is sin involved.

⁵ Adams, Christian Counselor's Manual, p. 324