

# Keep the Mission!

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September 27, 2020

**Ephesians 4:3**, *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

## 1. We Will Encounter CONFLICT

**Nehemiah 5:1**, *Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2 Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." 3 Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." 4 Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.*

## 2. Problems Can Be Handled CORRECTLY

**Nehemiah 5:6**, *When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them... 9 So I continued, "What you are doing is not right.*

### **Principles For Resolving Conflicts Correctly:**

- It's Okay To Be Angry, But Then Exercise SELF-CONTROL
- Speak To Them Personally And PRIVATELY FIRST
- Attack The Problem Not The PERSON
- Acknowledge Your Own FAULTS
- Take It Public Only When NECESSARY

**Matthew 18:15**, *"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.*

### **3. Leaders Should Set A GOOD EXAMPLE**

Nehemiah 5:15, *But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. 17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations.*

**1 Peter 5:1**, *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

**Hebrews 13:7**, *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

### **4. Remember The MISSION**

**Matthew 9:35**, *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."*