

Peacemaking Partnership Christians and Conflict

Part 1: Redefining Conflict

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

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What is Conflict?

Conflict is not:

- The beginning of the end
- Abnormal
- A sign of poor health (relationally, culturally, organizationally)
- A reason to move on

What is Conflict?

Conflict is:

- **Opportunity** for growth
- **Opportunity** for positive change
- **Opportunity** to experience the joy of *becoming perfect*
- **Opportunity** to learn and live Christ-like love

Elements of Conflict

- **Differences** (perceived /real) in individual desires
- **Response** based on differing perspectives (good or bad)and unmet desires
- **Plan** toward a solution (collaboratively or divisively)
- **Action-** Carrying out of plan leading to resolution, or *cycle of destruction*

Cycle of Destruction

- **Desire**
- **Demand**
- **Judgment**
- **Action (Punishment?)**

Cycle of Conflict: Desire

Desire

- (James, 4:1) Where do disputes come from?
- Often good and justifiable.
- Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (Proverbs 13:12)

Cycle of Conflict: Demand

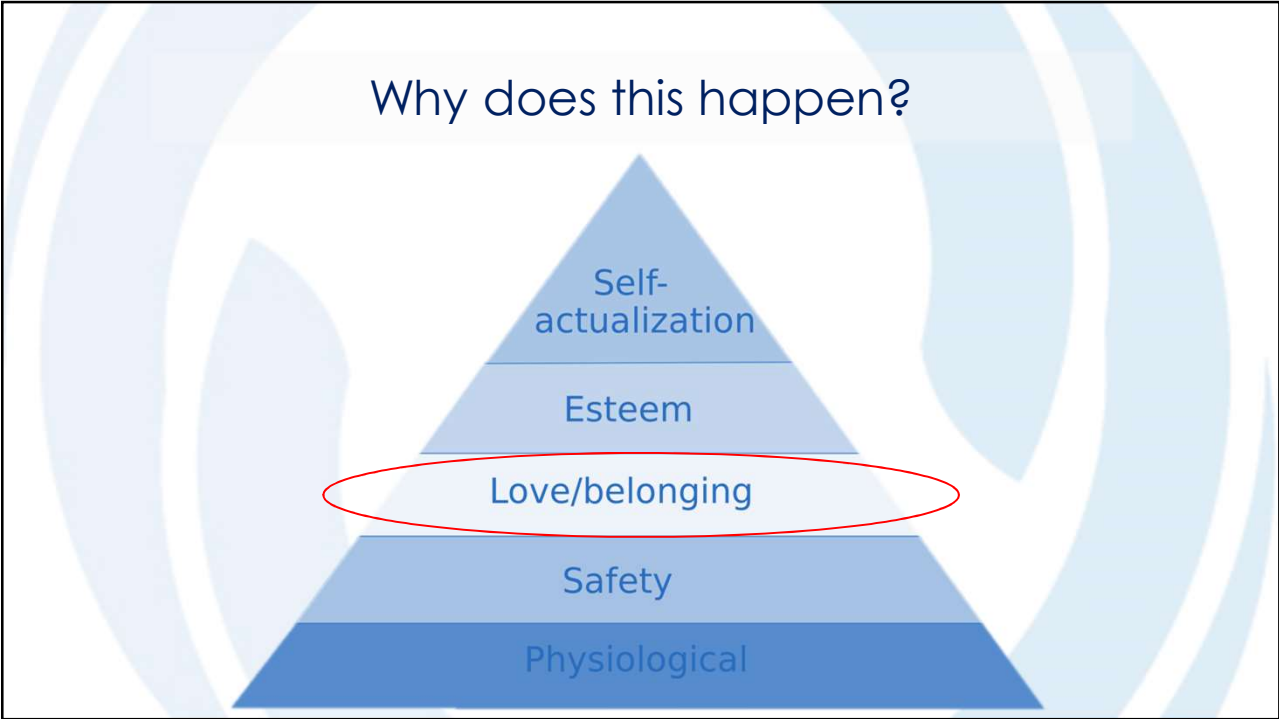
- Unmet desires become demands when we view others as
 - Tools to help us meet our desires
 - Barriers that stand in the way of our desires
- We objectify others based solely on the goodness of our own desire.
- *We step into the dark side*

Cycle of Conflict: Judgement

- Others fail to meet our expectations
- We pass judgment on them
- We justify our actions and attitudes
- Judas judges Christ (Matthew 26:14)
- Do we judge each other in this way...do we *judge God*?

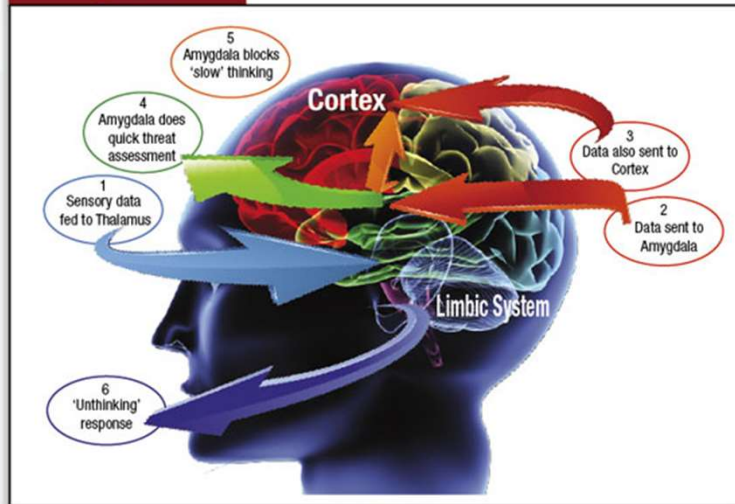
Cycle of Conflict: Action/Punishment

- This is where people get crazy.
- Weird things bounce around in our heads as **solutions** to our problems.
- Ideally, **getting help** isn't too far down the list of reasonable possibilities.
- *This is where process and **peacemaking culture** is important.

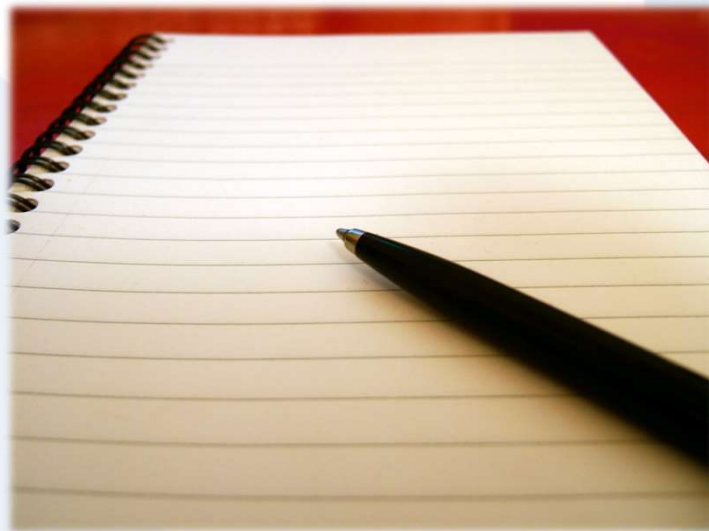


Why does it get so ugly?

Figure 1 Step-by-step process of an amygdala hijack



Write stuff down, engage your brain!



Creating an Opportunity: Your Heart

Where did this go wrong?

- **Perceived / real differences in individual desires:** What's making your heart sick?
What do you want?
- **Action/reaction** based on differing perspectives and unmet desires (good or bad):
How have you responded? How is that working?
- **Plan toward a solution** (collaboratively or divisively): What could you do differently
to reach your desire?
- **Carrying out of plan** (resolution, or cycle of conflict): Which direction is this going?

Preview of Part 2: Navigating Conflict Gracefully

- How to confront an issue
- How to say what you want
- How to reach resolution
- Moving forward, keeping positive momentum
- Types of conflict and when to involve the CRC
- Getting the most out of your Peacemaking Partnership

Striving for Peace Through Conflict

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

-Hebrews 12:14-15

THANK YOU!

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