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Conflict In The Church: The Uncomfortable Reality

John Paul Lathrop

Abstract

The apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, said "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task" (1 Tim. 3:1, NIV). The work is definitely noble but the task is not always easy. Timothy knew that because he was in the troubled church of Ephesus at the time when Paul wrote to him. Paul also knew that the ministry is difficult. Conflict is all too often a part of Christian ministry. In this brief article, we explore three kinds of conflict that a minister may encounter in the church. Paul was experienced in all of them and so I will focus our attention on his experience.

Rasul Paulus menuliskan kepada Timotius, katanya "Orang yang menghendaki jabatan penilik jemaat menginginkan pekerjaan yang indah" (1 Tim. 3:1, ITB). Pekerjaan ini memang sangat mulia namun tugas ini tidak selalu mudah. Timotius mengetahui hal itu karena ia berada dalam gereja yang bermasalah di Efesus pada saat itu Paulus menuliskan surat ini kepadanya. Paulus juga tahu bahwa pelayanan ini tidaklah mudah. Konflik yang terjadi merupakan bagian dari pelayanan orang Kristen. Dalam artikel ini, kita menyelidiki tiga jenis konflik yang mungkin akan dihadapi seorang pelayan di gereja. Saat itu Paulus mengalami semua konflik tersebut dan penulis akan fokus memberikan perhatian pada pengalaman pelayannya.

Keywords

conflict, church, Christian, Timothy, Paul, ministry

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But in reality conflict often leaves behind enduring damage – severed relationships, broken ties, people left scarred and embittered. Should we Christians not do better than this? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could respond to conflict in gracious and constructive ways? When faced with conflict, we often focus on what the other person has done wrong. In contrast, scripture and Church tradition call us to focus primarily on what is going on in our own hearts when we are at odds with another. In the Lenten prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, we are called first to see our own sins, and not to judge our brother. Why? Because according to scripture, the human heart is the wellspring of conflicts. The Conflict Of The Church And The Synagogue. Item Preview. remove-circle.

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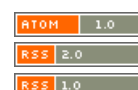
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