

CONFLICT AND POLARITY

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Phil 2:3-4

Conflict: competitive or opposing action of incompatibles; antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons).

Polarity: diametrical opposition; to be at cross-purposes (in views, values, or perceived needs).

Polarity is a condition of opposition and conflict is the evidence of the differences.

FEAR – Looking to one’s own interests for self-protection.

- Orphan mentality (I must protect myself)
- Inward focus leaves no room for the interests of others
- The greater the perceived threat, the narrower the focus
- Our “culture of fear” causes selfishness to be normal
- Fear depletes one’s own resources and looks to others as well
- The search for protection climbs the chain of command looking for a higher authority (family, community, society, science, government)

GREED – Looking to one’s own interests for self-promotion.

- Orphan mentality (I must provide for myself)
- Scarcity mentality (limited resources means there is not enough)
- The greater the perceived need, the narrower the focus
- Belief 1: I need it, so I must withhold it from someone else
- Belief 2: I must control it because others are not as trustworthy
- The search for provision climbs the chain of command (family, community, society, economy, government)

REPENT TO GODLINESS

- **Personal:** become immune to conflict (count others as more significant than yourselves)
 - Discover and confess your root of fear or greed
 - Let God be your Protector and Provider
- **Intercession:** speak the truth in love (look to the interests of others)
 - Identify a root of fear or greed
 - Confess God as Protector and Provider
- **Influence:** the ministry of reconciliation (facilitate humility and love)
 - Remove or reduce conflict in your environment
 - Model the love of Christ

SHARE PEACE

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. - Luk 6:45