

Bring It On

by Doug Bixby, p. 58

Most of us are aware of conflicts happening in relationships but we don't expect conflict within the church. Doug Bixby writes on how to navigate conflict in ministry head-on.

1. Doug Bixby quotes Covenant pastor and author D. Darrell Griffin as comparing “a new pastor arriving at an established church to a person who shows up in the middle of a movie.” When have you felt like you entered into a story somewhere in the middle? How could a congregation help a pastor acclimate to a new church better?
2. In reference to conflicts in the church, James 4:1 asks, “Do they not come from the cravings that are at war within you?” What do you think the cravings he is talking about are?
3. Bixby says moving a church from conflict and compromise toward cooperation and collaboration is the goal. What is the difference between compromise and collaboration?
4. Trust is key to the health of a congregation. How is your church currently fostering trustworthy relationships?
5. Which of the five common mistakes at the end of the article do you personally tend to make in dealing with conflict in your church, workplace, or relationships? Are there any pitfalls that you would add to the list?