

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an important series of studies on Oneness in Christ. Our topic today: When Conflicts Arise.

**1. Ethnic prejudices**

- a) Acts 6:1 What conflict arose while the early Christian church was experiencing remarkable blessings from God?
- b) How did the minority group interpret the apparent mistreatment of their widows?
- c) Acts 6:2-6 What prayerfully designed action plan was implemented to resolve this conflict?
- d) What important lessons can we learn from this incident about how to maintain oneness in Christ when conflicts arise?

**2. Us and Them Attitudes**

- a) What was the typical attitude of the Jewish people in the time of Jesus toward those outside of Judaism?
- b) What important lesson did the apostle Peter learn as a result of his encounter with Cornelius? Acts 10:28
- c) What supernatural revelation was given to demonstrate the Holy Spirit's activity among the Gentiles? Acts 10:44-48
- d) How did apostles in Jerusalem respond when they heard reports of what God was doing in Caesarea? Acts 11:18
- e) What additional evidence was given of the need to abandon the old "us and them" attitude toward the Gentiles? Acts 11:19-24

- f) What are some "Us and Them" attitudes we might have today that need to be abandoned in order to experience oneness in Christ?

**3. Doctrinal conflict**

- a) What troubling doctrine was reported to Paul and Barnabas while ministering to believers in Antioch? Acts 15:1
- b) How did the church leaders in Antioch address this conflict over doctrine? Acts 15:2
- c) How did the church leaders in Jerusalem seek to resolve this conflict? Acts 15:6-30
  - i) Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit v.28
  - ii) Come together v.6
  - iii) Let people share their perspectives v.7a
  - iv) Share testimonies of what God has done v.7b-12
  - v) Listen to the counsel of leadership v.13-21
  - vi) Share a united response and appeal v. 22-23
- d) What was the reaction of the believers in Antioch after they heard the report from Jerusalem? Acts 15:30-31 Was that reaction shared by all?
- e) What can we learn from the ongoing teaching ministry of Judas and Silas? Acts 15:32-34

**4. Discussion question: What important lessons have you learned from this study about conflict resolution?**

