

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

Title:

Lord Over Conflict

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 21:22-34

**Theme:** Trust in the Lord in the conflict he brings for he will sustain you.

**Introduction:** No one likes conflict, but in Scripture we find that God regularly brings his people into conflict, and often that conflict comes about because they have been blessed by God. We are all prone to wander, and in the life of Abraham we see how the Lord works through our conflicts to sanctify and strengthen us.

We can track Abraham's growth through 2 stages:

### 1. Blessing is perceived as a threat (22-24)

Abimelech had seen the Lord close the wombs of his women, and open the womb of Sarah. The Lord was clearly blessing Abraham.

Abraham's blessing by the Lord was perceived by Abimelech as a threat: "God is with you in all that you do" (22). He was envious, and wanted God's blessing without communion with God.

When the church compromises with the world, we lose God's blessing and we lose the distinctiveness of being his people. We must fight to remain true to him.

### 2. Blessing retained through conflict (25-34)

Unlike in some previous situations, here Abraham stands firm. When Abimelech's men stole his well, Abraham embraced the conflict in order to provide for his family.

We, too, must be willing to enter into conflict when obedience to the Lord is at stake. As Christians, we ought to expect conflict as a normal part of our lives.

Abimelech returned to his city and worshipped his gods, showing his pagan commitments. We, too, live in a world where false gods abound.

Jesus did not come to rescue us from conflict, but to increase it in some ways (Luke 12:51). He is the dividing line of allegiance in this world.

As we have been forgiven and counted righteous in him, we can and must stand for him in this world as we seek to live for his glory.

**Questions:**

1. How does your life testify of God's grace to the world around you?
2. How is the Lord using conflict for your good?
3. How are you tempted to compromise in the midst of conflict?