

Church Meeting Training: Business Meetings that Inform & Unite the Body of Christ

Monday, August 17, 2026

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In tonight's training session, Servant Leaders will...

- Be Provided a Real-Life Church Meeting Case Study that Teaches the Importance of Having Harmony in Church Business Meetings
- Learn Two (2) the Key "Church Meeting" Scriptures:
2 Timothy 2:23-26 & James 4:1-3
- Understand Three (3) Key Words/Terms to Understanding Church Meetings
- Explore the Two (2) Types of Convictions that Positively & Adversely Impact Church Meetings
- Discuss the Three (3) Types of Communications that Exist within Every Congregation
- Learn the Two (2) Main Causes of Church Meeting Fights & Discord

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Church Meeting Case Study:

The Marburg Colloquy Church Meeting of 1529
(Martin Luther & Ulrich Zwingli)



Colloquy [kŏl'ə-kwē]

- A _____ discussion or conversation.
- A meeting or conference called to discuss “high level” matters of _____, _____, and _____.
- Another word that references _____ meeting, _____ meeting, and church _____ in a religious setting.

I. The Church Meeting: “The Marburg Colloquy”

A. 2 Main “*Martin Luthers*” in History:

Dr. Martin Luther & Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birth Name

Reverend Michael King Sr. (The father of Michael King, Jr.). Rev. Michael King, Sr. changed his and his son’s names to “Martin Luther King” in 1934 after a trip to Germany, where he (Rev. Michael King, Sr.) was inspired by the Protestant leader Martin Luther.

B. The Marburg Church Meeting Particulars

1. When: October 1 – 3, 1529
2. Where: In the City of Marburg, Germany
3. Who: Dr. Martin Luther & Supporters and Reverend Ulrich Zwingli & Supporters

4. Purpose: The purpose of the Marburg Church Meeting was to attempt to solve a _____ between two prominent _____, Dr. Martin Luther and Reverend Ulrich Zwingli who felt “misunderstood” by each other.
5. Point of Contention: The Proper Interpretation of Luke 22:19. 2 Opposing Convictions between Luther & Zwingli Regarding the Meaning of...
- _____

A. The Luther Conviction

“Is” cannot be turned into something else. The broken bread is the broken body of Jesus Christ.”

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “**This is my body** given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

Luke 22:19

-or-

B. The Zwingli Conviction

The bread only “represents” the body of Jesus Christ. It is not possible for the Body of Christ to be at the right hand of God in heaven AND in the bread and wine on the altar at the same time.

*And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

John 6:35

In Your Personal Opinion, Who Was Correct?

- A. The Luther Conviction
- B. The Zwingli Conviction

6. Requested Resolution: The night before the Church Meeting, church members from within the religious community asked Luther and Zwingli to “heal the schism”.
7. Day 1 of the Marburg Church Meeting: Zwingli prayed for God’s intervention and healing.

8. Day 2 of the Marburg Church Meeting: Luther stood firm on his conviction regarding the communion bread being the physical Body of Christ.
9. The Result: The division of the church with two classifications of Zwinglians and Lutherans. Luther initially refused to acknowledge Zwingli and his followers as Christians.

II. About Church Meetings

A. The Purpose of Church Meetings

_____: They update and inform church members about upcoming ministry events and activities.

_____: They unite the Body of Christ in doing the Work of the Lord.

_____: They enable church members to have input in pertinent governance matters of the church.

B. How to Lead a Church Meeting that Unites the Body of Christ

“United” means to _____ on the same _____ and _____ about a particular matter.

C. Church Meeting Essentials for Servant Leaders

1. Do not bring any matter before the Body of Christ that does not have a possible, _____ for the members to consider. Matters with no unified solution should not be presented to the Body of Christ.
2. Do not expect church members to create an _____ to the matter when they don’t know the details known and shared by the church’s leadership.
3. Come with a _____ that allows and encourages the members to remain harmonious with one another. Doing otherwise will divide the Body of Christ.

III. Understanding Church Meeting Distractions, Convictions & Conflicts

A. How They Begin & Why They Take Place

Church meeting conflicts begin when one or more members feel _____ about their being _____, _____, or _____ by other members. In such times, members will use church meetings as their way of “being heard”.

B. Church Meeting Scripture #1: 2 Timothy 2:23-26 (NIV)

²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.



Conviction: con·vic·tion [kən'vɪkʃn]

- a firmly held _____ or _____:
- the quality of showing that one is _____ of what one believes or says:
- An unchangeable belief, stance, or perspective

C. Two Types of “Convictions” in Ministry

1. Absolute Convictions
*Convictions we believe should “absolutely” _____
_____. Universal, unchangeable beliefs that
apply to ourselves and everyone around us.¹*

¹ (Winsome Conviction, Disagreeing without Dividing the Church; Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer, pgs. 33-34, 2020.)

C. Two Types of “Convictions” in Ministry

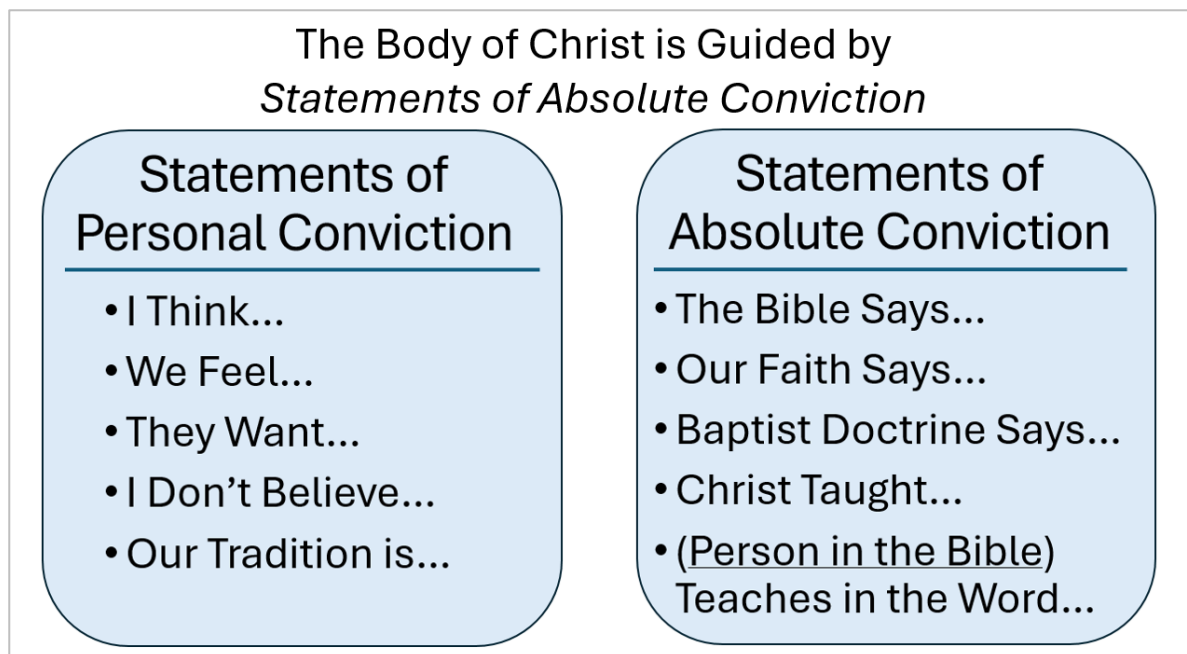
1. Absolute Convictions (cont’d.)

- a. Not what we _____ or prefer, but _____ in the Will of God and the Message of Jesus Christ.
- b. Not swayed by what others may say, think, or do. The only matter of an Absolute Conviction is pleasing and honoring God.

Name “Absolute” (Unchangeable, Unwavering, Uncompromising) Convictions that Christians Believe Should Universally Apply to Everyone.

2. Personal Convictions

Things we _____ that determine our personal conduct (i.e. what we say, how we respond, what we do) although we realize others may not share the same belief.²



² (Winsome Conviction, Disagreeing without Dividing the Church; Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer, pgs. 33-34, 2020.)



IV. Church Meeting Understanding

Not every member of your church wants peace. Some desire and prefer discord as a way of “being heard” and will stand for their personal preferences and convictions no matter how offensive and divisive they may be.

A. The Cause of Church Meeting Conflicts

Presenting our “_____” as if they are “Absolute Convictions” that _____ should follow.

B. Church Meeting Scripture #2: James 4:1-3 (NIV)

¹ *“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?”*

² *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.*

³ *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

C. 2 Main Causes of Church Meeting Fights & Discord

1. **Church leaders** making their _____ the focus of the congregation rather than spiritual salvation received through Jesus Christ.
2. **Church members** insisting on getting their way at the expense of the church’s _____, _____, and _____.

Name Types of “Personal” Convictions that Sometimes Lead to Distractions and Discord in Church Meetings.

Is your church led and governed by Absolute Convictions of the Spirit or Personal Convictions of people?

V. 3 Types of Communication within the Church

1. “_____ of the Lord” Communication
2. “_____ Only” Communication
3. “_____ Relationship” Communication

Which is the right type of communication for Church Meetings?

1. “Servants of the Lord” Communication:

_____ and interacts well with others through relationships of _____ and _____ as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Servant Communication Conditions:

Communications and relationships consist of _____, _____, _____, and ongoing desire to _____ with others.

Servant Communication Requirements:

Be _____ in loving, forgiving, and communicating with others regardless of what they do and say.

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
(Proverbs 4:23)*

2. “Business Only” Communication:

Only basic information is exchanged, _____ _____ to accomplish the task without any relational interaction.

Business Only Conditions:

_____, but not reconciling with another member.
Understanding of positional responsibilities and the willingness to provide pertinent information.

Business Only Requirements:

_____ the other member and work intently and intentionally to develop a spiritual relationship with them as Brothers & Sisters in Christ. Strive to communicate with them on a Servant of the Lord level.

V. 3 Types of Communication within the Church (cont'd.)



Indifferent [in·dif·fer·ent]

- Having no _____, care, sympathy, nor concern about a particular person or situation.
- _____, lukewarm, and non-caring with respect to the well-being of another.
- _____ regardless of what happens to the person/situation.

An indifferent person is one who has lost faith in another person. You allow brokenness to become the norm by refusing to try to improve your relationship with others.

3. Indifferent Relationship Communication:

No information, communications, or relationships exist between you and the other member. _____ is used to express disagreement and deprive them of your presence, gifts, and ministry.

Indifferent Relationship Conditions:

A _____ accompanied by the absence of _____ and emotion. An intentional, determined refusal to respect and seek understanding with one another.

Indifferent Relationship Requirements:

Begin by praying for God's _____ upon the other person. Ask God to "soften" your heart and strive to accomplish "baby steps" towards *Business Only* Communication with them.



VI. "In Your Opinion..." Church Meeting Discussions

A. *In your opinion, was the Marburg Church Meeting successful in achieving its purpose? Why? Why not?*

- B. In your opinion, are church meetings successful in accomplishing each of the above stated purposes (see II-A on pg. 5 of these notes)?*
- C. In your opinion, what did Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli do wrong to cause the discord within the church?*
- D. In your opinion, who was right in the Marburg Church Meeting and why?*
- 1. Martin Luther (Why?)*
 - 2. Ulrich Zwingli (Why?)*
 - 3. Neither Luther nor Zwingli (Why?)*
- E. In your opinion, is it ever appropriate for church officers and ministry leaders argue during Church Meetings or in the presence of others?*
- F. In your opinion, who was hurt the most by Luther & Zwingli's unwillingness to do as the believers requested and resolve their differences?*
- 1. Martin Luther*
 - 2. Ulrich Zwingli*
 - 3. The Members Who Believe in Them*
- G. In your opinion, what should Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli have done differently to maintain unity within the church?*

H. In your opinion, what more (if anything) could the congregation and church leaders have done to help make the Church Meeting successful in bringing harmony and unity to the Marburg Community of Faith?

I. In your opinion, what can we (today's congregations) do differently to maintain harmony and peace in our Church Meetings?

No names of people nor churches permitted.

VII. When Servant Leaders Argue

When Servant Leaders Argue, the end result will be dividing your “supporters” from theirs. There is no such thing as a Servant Leader who “wins” a church fight. Every church member has “supporters” and every argument with church members separates the Servant Leader from the members’ supporters.

We are called to be Servants of the Lord to ALL people regardless of our personal convictions about them.

²⁴ And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26