Conflict Case Study

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Resolving Conflict Case

After my father's death my sister Peggy was left in charge at the Tourist Operator Agency in Arequipa-Peru. She knew the business pretty well, even though it was not running to its potential. European tourism to my country declined little by little after a few international and national conflicts. During my father's last years in the business my sister decided to get another job at a private University in town. So, she worked two full time jobs.

My mother was never involved in my father's business, so she didn't know what was involved in how to operate a Tourist Agency. However, she decided to take control over the business through her authority as a mother and wanting to bring things up. In the beginning it was kind of a cordial and mutual acceptance by my sister and mother to work things together for the good of the business, up to the point that my sister encouraged her to invest some money in the Tourist and Operator Agency. My mother got convinced and gave some money to improve the business. After a few months things were not improving, my mother was becoming irritable and angry demanding accountability on every transaction my sister was doing. My sister tried to continue the business as best as she could for about a year, but of course with two jobs she definitely made a few mistakes. The relationship between them was getting worse every day, my mother one day was so angry that she hit my sister in a very severe way in front of the employees in the office. My sister knew that she was not going to win anything with my mother so she sued her and asked for an order not to come to the office at all. This episode was the beginning of fifteen years going to court, lawyers, insults and fights. I am the oldest of the family and both my mother and sister wanted me to support each one. I constantly said "I can't be between my mother and sister. It is impossible for me to favor either of you" I tried to bring the word of God during my conversations, but I was unable to get through. I cried, prayed, asked for intercession

prayers, and pastors intervened, but nothing was being solved. It seems everything was getting worse and worse. They kept fighting for several years until my mother's lawyer won the case, due to my sister's distraction. My sister continued working at the private university and did very well; however she developed a sickness called fibromyalgia for many years. After a year the agency had to be closed.

My sister Peggy came to see my mother's house, who was in bed pretty sick as I was visiting my mother in Peru. She came determined to see my mother and ask for her forgiveness. She apologized and said that both hurt each other and it was time to forgive each other. I know it was very hard for my sister to take this step since my mother can be very demanding and hurtful at times without noticing. She even sometimes says to me "you left me to face the problem with your sister alone, but I have a Living God who fought for me and your sister came to ask for forgiveness."

According to Rick Warren, we are called to be peacemakers on earth as followers of Christ. As he mentioned in the beginning of his sermon no one has taught my mother and sister to resolve a conflict. I strongly believe that the conflict of my mother with my sister got all the way to court because they were fearful to face each other as in 2 Timothy 1:7 and they were not filled with God's love even though both went to a pastoral class for a year at their church. I believe they prayed righteusly thinking that each one was in the right. However, they were unable to hear God's wisdom as James 1:5 *"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you…"* After many years of my sister struggling with Fibromyalgia; finally she humbled herself as my mother was sick on her bed asking for forgiveness and mentioned that both have hurt themselves. My mother was happy and started getting better. My sister doesn't have Fibromyalgia any longer. She has been

healed. Praise the Lord! For many years they hurt each other because of pride in their hearts. Proverbs 13:10 Pride only leads to arguments …They need to learn to speak the truth in love as Ephesians 5:15. They also needed to listen for their hurt and perspective of the other person behind the idea. As James 1:19 says "… be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry." They also needed to learn to seek and to look for the interest of the other, in order to have the attitude of Christ Jesus turning your focus from your needs to the needs of the other person. Rick Warren also shared a Chinese proverb "seek to understand before seeking to be understood."

I love his last Bible verse on *2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

*God has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this **ministry of restoring relationships**. God was in Christ restoring His relationship with humanity…**He didn't hold people's faults against them,** and He has given us **this message of restored relationships to tell others.** We are Christ's representatives… We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.*

If my mother and sister could have learned the steps that Rick Warren teaches I believe they wouldn't have gone through such a terrible time between each other and the family, but JESUS is been glorified through this experience in us. As the song says "See the Victory" He has come to transform evil into good!

Bibliography

Saddleback Church. "Learn How To Resolve Conflict & Restore Relationships, 2015" YouTube

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely ..100..%

Quickly but Completely____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely____%

Quickly and NOT Completely____%

Not at all

Signed: _____