

IV. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Principles to Apply

When the well-published Three Mile Island incident occurred near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1979, there was great concern that the heat generated by uncontrolled atomic fission would result in a very destructive melt-down. The solution lay in acknowledging the danger, containing the problem, cooling down the reactor, and repairing the damaged systems.

A good ministerial team is made up of people who generate a lot of energy, ideas, and activity. When such highly energized and motivated people clash, there is likely to be considerable heat and destruction. The destruction increases in both degree and scope as the problem is ignored. As with the defective atomic generating plant, there must be open acknowledgement of the problem among those involved, a concerted effort to contain the conflict, cooling through mutual understanding, and repair of those relationships and systems that have been damaged (or which were never in proper order in the first place).

Acknowledgement

Matt. 18:15-17 provides instruction in regard to both acknowledgement and containment, (and for that matter, repair of broken relationships). Verse 15 reads, "If your brother sins against you,