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The Problems at Work

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Colossians 3:13

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
Colossians 3:23

What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with . . . and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.
Ecclesiastes 3:9-10, 13b (NIV)

The most common problem at work is a **personality problem**.

I. Our Story: **Paul and Barnabas**

And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.
Acts 15:39-40

*. . . And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. **But Barnabas took him** and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.*
Acts 9:26b-27

*And after Paul and Barnabas **had no small dissension and debate** with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.*

Acts 15:2

So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the

church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
Acts 11:25-26

What contributed to the conflicts?

A. An unexpected **promotion**.

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,
Acts 13:13

Problems at work often are rooted in **insecurity**.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?
James 4:1

B. A loss **of trust**

*For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that **even Barnabas** was led astray by their hypocrisy.*
Galatians 2:12-13

II. My Story: **Tough questions**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
Romans 12:3

A. Do I trust my **boss** and **co-workers**?

B. Do I attack **people perceived to be more skilled than me**?

C. Do I get **angry when I don't receive recognition**?

D. Am I **honestly giving my best effort**?

E. Would my co-workers say **I am an example of humility and patience**?

Application:

1. Healthy people **help people**.

2. Look daily **at ways to encourage others**.

3. Speak the **truth in love**.

4. Find ways **to forgive others consistently**.