



**We Do Not Live To Ourselves  
Conflict Resolution in Community**

**Proper 19, Year A**

**Overview**

**Focus Text: Romans 14:1-12**

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

**Pastoral Reflection by Rev. David Odom, Executive Director, Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School**

In a community of Christians, the hopeful possibilities present in conflict will only be realized when we deal with the tension in a productive way. When a congregation faces conflict openly and directly with the people involved, there is a good opportunity for the situation to result in positive change and closer relationships between people. When conflict is handled in a way that cuts off communication and silences questions, the conflict can escalate and become destructive.

**Key Quote**

We need more conflict resolution skills taught in the schools and more emphasis on non-violent means of resolving conflict.

*Patricia Ireland*