

Free from Friction

Scripture

*"He makes me lie down in green pastures."
Psalm 23:2*

Reflection

Sheep often compete for position within the flock. Rivalries develop as stronger sheep attempt to control the best places to graze and rest. This friction keeps the flock unsettled.

People can behave in much the same way. We compete for influence, recognition, control, and attention. These rivalries appear in families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and even churches.

When our focus is fixed on ourselves, conflict grows. When our focus is fixed on the Shepherd, the struggle for prominence begins to fade. The desire to serve, worship, and please Christ becomes more important than receiving credit.

Unity grows when believers stop asking who is most important and begin asking how they can honor Jesus together.

Illustration

Members of an orchestra may compete for attention during rehearsal, but when the conductor raises the baton, every musician must focus on the same leader. Harmony is possible only when each person follows the conductor rather than seeking personal attention.

The church experiences unity when every believer fixes his or her attention on Christ.

Application

Consider whether a desire for recognition, authority, or control has created friction in one of your relationships.

Choose one practical way to place Christ above your personal preferences. Encourage someone else, give credit freely, or serve without seeking recognition.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I seek attention, control, or recognition. Turn my focus away from myself and toward You. Help me serve with humility and contribute to peace and unity among Your people. Amen.