

Maintaining Relational Unity & Love

Introduction:

1. Those that love Christ (the Head of the Church) will do everything possible to give Christ what He wants most – His actual Body on earth (Bride). The corporate “skin” of Christ is capable of doing what He did while in His earthly body 2000 years ago, and even greater things! (1 Cor. 11:27-33, 12:12-31; Col. 1:18, 3:14; Jn 14:12, 17:20-24)
2. The number one indicator of how much we love and follow Christ is how much we maintain relational love and unity with Christ’s Body – the members of our church family. Christ and Christ’s Body are inseparable. We can’t say we love Christ and not love Christ’s family. Make every effort to keep the bond of the Spirit. (Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:4-7; 1 Cor.1:10)
3. Maintaining the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace will require the highest levels of self-sacrifice, self-denial, forgiveness, relational & communication skills, cross-bearing, spiritual warfare and more! Each individual believer will have to fight for love and unity. Superficial ways of connecting, division, offenses are all ways Satan works to keep Christ’s Body from forming into true Oneness. The formation of a true Body of Christ is the greatest threat to hell. Only covenantally connected sons & daughters of God in family have the authority to dislodge, displace, and cast out principalities and powers (demons) that have oppressed the church and enslaved society.
4. There are great benefits for walking in unity and love in Christ within Christ’s Body. There are also serious consequences for not recognizing and honoring the Body of Christ! (1 Cor. 11:29-32)

Steps To Unity & Love:

1. Love Christ with all your heart...and ultimately draw your Life from Christ. Christ Body can be a conduit of Christ’s Love and Life...but is not the Source.
2. Come into a deep revelation, with humility and commitment, that you will do everything possible to connect covenantally within a true biblical Christ-centered church family. Place yourself in the Body.
3. Practice fellowshipping in the light around Christ. (1 Jn. 1:3-10, 2:9-11, 4:7-21)
 - A. Let your inner conversation come into the light of God’s loving, non-judgmental people.
 - B. Come into mind, heart, and lifestyle unity and love with your church family. Gain the mind of Christ, the heart of Christ, and the lifestyle of Christ together... Shared life around the Person, People, and Purpose of Christ.
4. Premeditate mercy and forgiveness as a lifestyle i.e pick up your cross daily.
5. Live in the “throne room” governed by mercy and grace verses the “court room” governed by accusation, judgment, criticism, unforgiveness, bitterness. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Heb. 4:16; James 2:13
6. Cultivate a lifestyle which has a rhythm of shared worship, word, fellowship, mission through Christ and His Spirit. (2’s & 3’s, Missional Kingdom Families 5-15, local congregations, family of churches i.e. “tribe”) There must be legitimate plurality of New Testament government (apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists, elders, deacons, etc).
7. Grow in the fruit, wisdom, revelation, and power of the Holy Spirit so you are a constant life-giving person.
8. Confront anything and everything inside that is anti-Christ’s Body such as:
Anti-Christ attitudes and motives:
 - A. Pride and selfish ambition. James 3:13-18
 - B. Selfishness, independence.
 - C. Jealousy, comparisonAnti-Christ mindsets and emotions:
 - A. Fear & Unbelief
 - B. Wrongful thoughts and ideasAnti-Christ actions:
 - A. Gossip, slander, accusations
 - B. Lying, misrepresentation

Godly Appeals for Injured Relationships - Matthew 18:15-20:

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone...¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more... (Mt. 18:15-16)

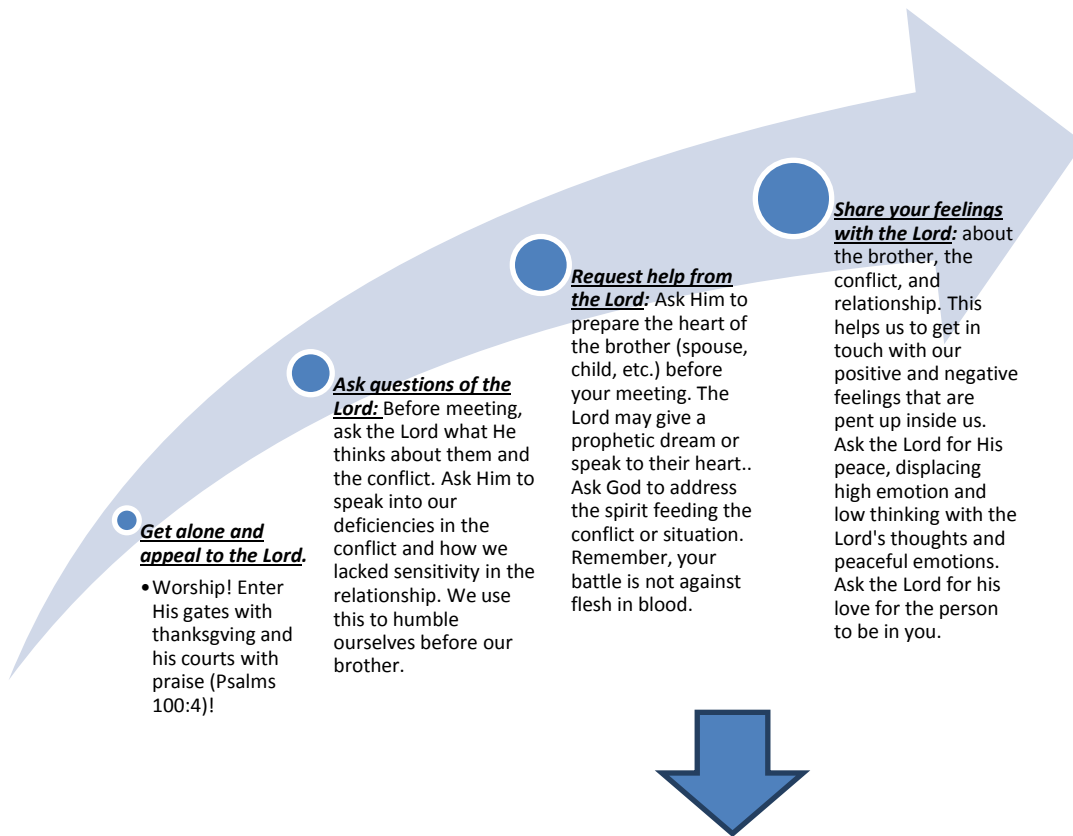
Right Process (See chart below) – Right Purpose (Your motive is for the Glory of God and unity in the spiritual family! John 17) –
– Right Spirit (Righteousness, joy & peace in the Holy Spirit [Romans 14:17]. Watch your tone and presentation. Communicate love. Describe behavior not motive. Discuss analytically not accusationally. Come with an “offering”!)

Stages of Relationship/Family/Community: Forming – Norming – Storming – Performing - Transforming

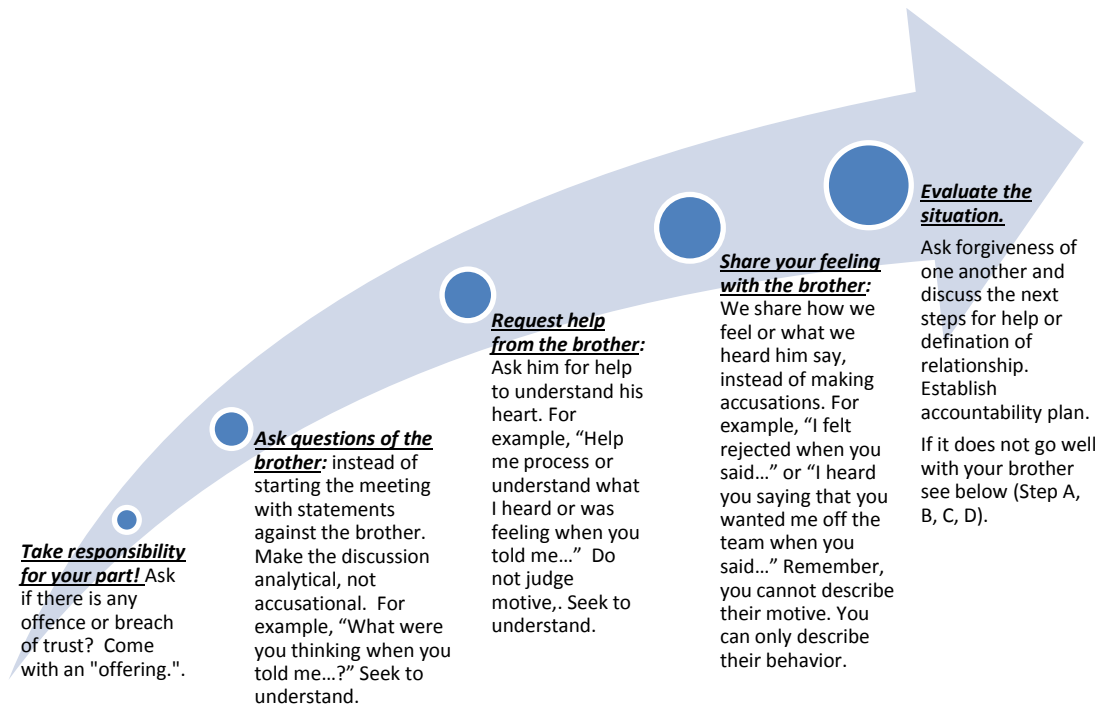
Offense/Event/Breach of Trust Happened



STEP ONE: Go To The Lord



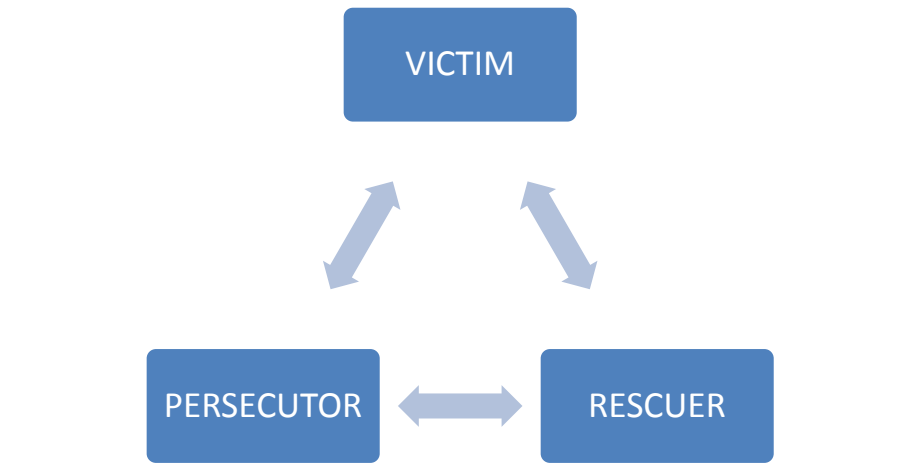
STEP TWO: Go To Your Brother/Sister



What happens if it does not go well with your Brother or Sister? What is the appeal strategy?

- Step A:** Share up with your 2's & 3's i.e. DNA Group (you have to assess if your DNA is ready and will handle the situation in a mature/Biblical manner) and repeat step 1 and 2 as a DNA. If that does not go well then see step B.
- Step B:** Share up with your MKF Leaders and repeat Step 1 and 2 as a DNA and MKF Leaders. If that does not go well then see step C.
- Step C:** Your MKF Leaders will share up to the local Elder team to intervene in on the situation. If that does not go well then see step D.
- Step D:** Local Elders will share up to the Apostolic & Prophetic Leadership Team to intervene on the situation. If that does not go well and the wrongdoing is a matter of serious church discipline regarding a leader then see step E.
- Step E:** Local Elders and Apostolic Prophetic Leadership Team will share up to a larger Presbytery of Apostolic & Prophetic leaders to intervene in the situation.

STOP ALL TRIANGULATION! STOP ALL GOSSIP AND SLANDER BY AVOIDING DRAMA TRIANGLES!



IMPORTANT SCRIPTURES:

¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. (Gal 5:15)

²⁴ "A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. ²⁵ Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart. (Mark 3:24-25 NLT)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9 ESV)

¹⁹ A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city... (Prov. 18:19) ¹⁹ An offended brother is more unyielding [unresponsive] than a fortified city... (Prov. 18:19 NIV)

Walk Worthy...² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

¹⁸ There is no fear [of rejection] in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment [fear of being judged]. He who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1 Jn. 4:18)

¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone...

¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more... (Mt. 18:15-16)

¹ If a man is overtaken in any trespass...restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens... (Gal. 6:1-2)

¹³ A talebearer reveals secrets...he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. (Prov. 11:13)

¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16)

³ If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. (Lk. 17:3)

²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment. (Jn. 7:24)

¹ Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you...⁵ First remove the plank from your eye, and you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye. (Mt. 7:1-5)

¹ If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (Gal. 6:1)

¹³ He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him...¹⁷ The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor... [cross] examines him. (Prov. 18:13-17)

¹⁹ Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. (Jas. 1:19)

¹³ A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. (Prov. 11:13)

⁸ Above all things have fervent love...for love will cover a multitude of sins. (1 Pet. 4:8)

⁹ He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends. (Prov. 17:9)

¹³ Mercy triumphs over judgment. (Jas. 2:13)

¹⁰ In honor giving preference to one another...¹⁴ bless and do not curse...¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another...Do not be wise in your own opinion...¹⁸ as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men... (Rom. 12:10-18)

OSV Kingdom Culture:

Oriented: Clear and honest communication at all times. There is no confusion. Everyone is clear on vision, values, strategy, goals, etc. Clear communication in-between, upward and downward.

Safe: Everyone is safe emotionally, physically, and spiritually. People feel safe with one another! Individuals are safe, DNA's are safe, MKF's are safe, etc.

Valued: Everyone is equally valued and loved. Everyone knows they are of equal value within the spiritual family and play a vital role in the spiritual family.