

A photograph of a person's legs and feet walking on a sandy beach. The person is wearing a dark skirt and white socks. The sand is light brown and shows several footprints. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a fence. The overall tone is warm and natural.

Why Healthy Relationships are Essential to Healthy Churches

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Every relationship that we could possibly have within this church community needs to be on good healthy standing

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Observations

- We tend to be complacent when it comes to resolving conflict or tension
- We are largely a consumer culture and discard culture
- need to be continually working through potential conflicts

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Matthew 18:15-18

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

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If you are sinned against, sort it out.

- Deal with the person directly
- Take others with you
- Involve the church

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How we work things out can have eternal consequences.

- It is easier to work things out with God than our brothers and sisters.
- we need to be intentional about working out our frustrations

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Our unity empowers us to be used by God to accomplish his will.

- Our mission is more effective when we are unified

How should we respond?

- Honesty
- Humility
 - Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
 - Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
 - Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
 - Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)
 - Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
 - Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
 - Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

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How should we respond?

- Honesty
- Humility
- Grace and forgiveness
 - Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
 - Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)