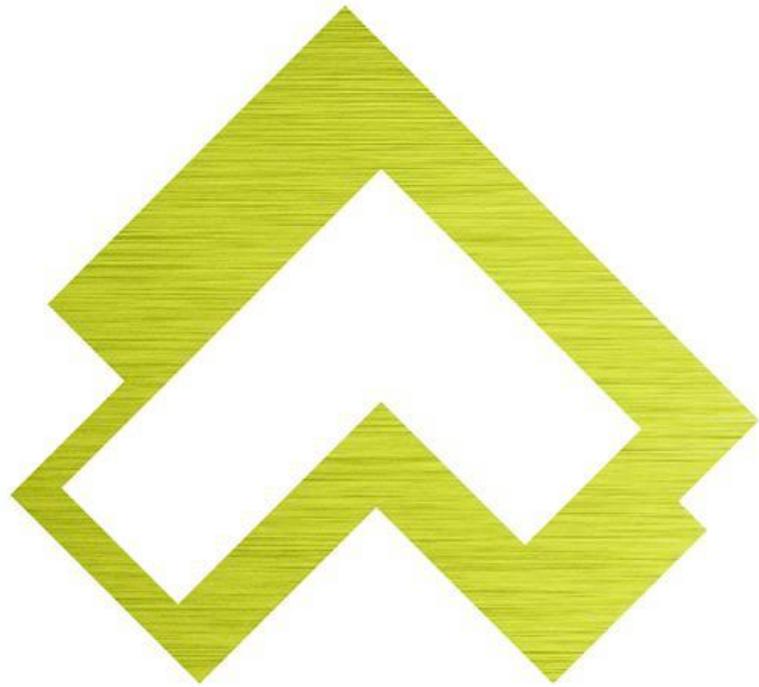


The Journey of Faith

Session 9



THE
SUMMIT
CHURCH

Christian Relationships

Teaching Chart

LIVING IN HARMONY WITH GOD’S FAMILY

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35, ESV)

Responsibilities Toward Others

- Love Other Believers (1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:12)
- Pray for Other Believers (Philippians 1:3-6)
- Help Other Believers (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Encourage Other Believers (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Actions Toward Others

- Be Honest with Others (Ephesians 4:25-27)
- Share with Others (Ephesians 4:28)
- Build Up Others (Ephesians 4:29)
- Don't Be Angry with Others (Ephesians 4:31)
- Be Kind/Willingly Forgive Others (Ephesians 4:32)

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24)

How to Resolve Conflict in 3 Steps:

- Approach a Person Privately (Matthew 18:15)
- Approach a Person with 1-2 Witnesses (Matthew 18:16)
- Take the Matter Before the Church (Matthew 18:17)

Lesson

- Overview:** Since you are now in God’s family, you have gained many brothers and sisters in your spiritual family. As a result, you must strive to maintain proper and loving relationships with them. However, much like your physical family, there can be conflict between members, which will result in broken fellowship. Therefore, a believer must follow biblical guidelines in order to have right relationships with other Christians.
- Purpose:** To instruct the believer on making and maintaining functional relationships with other believers
- Verses:** (John 13:34-35)
 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 (Galatians 6:10) So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- I. What is my relationship with other believers?
 - A. Other Christians are your brothers and sisters in the spiritual family.
(1 John 3:1-2)
 - 1. Believers are no longer children of the devil.
 - 2. However, believers are the children of God making them related to one another in their new, spiritual family.
 - B. Other Christians should be treated as your family.

- II. What are my responsibilities toward another Christian?
 - A. You should pray for other believers.
(Philippians 1:3-4)
 - B. You should help other believers when they are in need.
 - 1. Help other believers when they have a physical need.
(Romans 12:13)
 - 2. Help other believers when they have a spiritual need.
(Galatians 6:1-2)
 - C. You should encourage other believers.
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - D. You should always be honest with other believers.
(Ephesians 4:25)

- III. What actions should I demonstrate toward other believers?
 - A. You should willingly forgive them when they do something wrong against you.
(Ephesians 4:32)
 - 1. Do not gossip or talk “behind the back” of another believer who has wronged you.
 - a. A person’s first reaction to someone who has wronged him is to share the situation with another individual.
(Romans 12:17)
 - b. However, this will only spread disunity among believers.
(Ephesians 4:29)
 - 2. Christians should work at being kind to each other.
 - 3. When another believer is unkind to you, remember that Christ freely forgave you.
 - a. The old nature wants revenge or to get even.
 - b. The new nature wants you to willingly forgive.
 - B. You should genuinely love other believers.
(1 John 3:14-16)
 - 1. Loving others is a true test of spiritual life (v.14).
 - 2. True love is willing to put aside your needs and help someone else.

- IV. What should I do if another believer offends me?
 - A. First, approach him privately about the matter.
 - 1. Approach him with humility.

(Galatians 6:1)

2. Approach him with honesty.
(Matthew 18:15)
- B. If the matter is not settled, take one or two other mature believers with you.
(Matthew 18:16)
1. Do not take someone who is involved in or related to the situation.
 2. Choose a person who can remain balanced and neutral between the two persons involved.
 3. Take a pastor or deacon because of their leadership in the church.
- C. If the believer still does not repent, address the matter with the church.
(Matthew 18:17)
1. The goal in a disagreement is the settling of the matter.
 2. However, there are times when a believer refuses to repent of his wrongdoing.
 - a. Allow the church to handle the situation as they see necessary.
(Hebrews 13:17)
 - b. You should forgive the sinning believer even if he does not repent; otherwise, bitterness could begin to take over your life.
(Matthew 18:21-22)
(Ephesians 4:31)
 - c. Pray for him.
(Matthew 5:44)
 3. Remember, do everything that you can to resolve the matter, but keep in mind that there will be times when the sinning believer will refuse to settle the matter.
(Romans 12:18)

Review

1. What is your relationship with other believers?
2. How should you treat other Christians?
3. List four responsibilities that you have toward other believers.
4. Name a few ways that you can help another Christian with his or her physical needs?
5. Why is honesty important between believers?

6. What is the most important reason for forgiving another believer who has offended you (give scriptural support)?
7. Do not _____ or talk “behind the back” of another _____ who has wronged you.
8. What action should you take first when someone offends you?
9. If a sinning believer does not repent when you approach him privately, what are the next two steps you should follow?
10. If the sinning believer refuses to repent after all of these actions are taken, what should be your response?
11. Are there times when situations will not be resolved with the sinning Christian?
12. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- You should dislike any Christian who does not believe exactly the same as your church.
- There are certain cases when a believer should not forgive an unrepentant believer.
- When the church disciplines a believer, all of the members should hate him. In other words, the goal of church discipline is to make a public spectacle out of the sinning believer instead of restoring his relationship with God and others.