

Biblical Communication Guidelines

Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone...let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.
(Romans 12:18, 14:19b)

I will overlook minor offenses.

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Proverbs 19:11 (NLT) Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

When I have a problem with another person, I will go to that person promptly and privately, only involving a few select others if the conflict persists.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵ If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again...

Proverbs 28:23 (NLT) In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than flattery.

I will set aside my own pride in the face of conflict, and humbly pursue a course of biblical reconciliation as recommended by the church leadership.

1 Peter 5:5 (NLT) In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." (Also see Ephesians 4:2 above.)

When individuals have a problem with me, I want them to come to me privately; I will be open to them when they come.

Proverbs 15:31-32 (NLT) ³¹ If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. ³² If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding. (Also see Matthew 18:15 above.)

When someone has a problem with me, and comes to you, send that person to me. I'll do the same for you.

Proverbs 26:20 (NLT) Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops. (Also see Matthew 18:15 above.)

When I am wondering if someone has a problem with me, I will go to them and ask promptly.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT) ²³ So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

I will not assume what others are thinking and feeling, or speak for others in regards to what they are thinking or feeling

(See Matthew 18:15 and Matthew 5:23-24 above.)

I will honor others by treating personal information and private conversations as confidential.

Proverbs 11:13 (NLT) A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

I will refrain from all gossip and slander, only speaking that which encourages and builds up others.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Also see Proverbs 26:20, 11:13 above.)