June/July 2015 Vol. 2 No. 6 A Place of Hope. A People of Promise. Published by The International Pentecostal Holiness Church



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WHY WE NEED RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER



World Missions Ministries.

DOUG BEACHAM is the presiding bishop of the IPHC. He has served in various roles in the church including Georgia Conference Superintendent, executive director of Church Education Ministries, and executive director of

By Doug Beacham Our connection to each other is vital because the world needs to see true community.

s I write this column, my heart continues to rejoice in and reflect upon the powerful meeting the IPHC held in Hong Kong in early May. From around the globe more than 500 of our leaders met for three days of prayer, vision casting, inspiration, relationship building and renewal.

We listened to powerful testimonies of how the Holy Spirit is working to reach the lost in Indonesia. Our hearts were stirred as we listened to leaders in Nepal tell us about their response to the recent devastating earthquakes and many of us were prompted to respond to help through People To People Ministries.

We prayed with our leaders in Ukraine as they face the threat of war. The amazing people of the Hong Kong IPHC, especially the Wing Kwong congregation, poured out their lives into us with generous hospitality.

I was reminded again of the power that arises from our relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship, which is the single most important relationship in our lives, establishes us as members of His body, the Church, which in turn connects us in life-giving relationships.

This is a vital part of what life in the Holy Spirit is aboutbeing connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Those relationships are established in truth, in love and in mutual appreciation and edification of one another.

Our life in the Holy Spirit also connects us to the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) that has surrounded the global church across the centuries. In Christ, we have relationship with Abraham, David,

Isaiah, Malachi, the first apostles and the people of God throughout the ages. It also means that we are connected to those who will follow us when we take our place among that cloud of witnesses.

But relationships do not occur in a vacuum. There are historical and cultural contexts that frame the dynamics of our relationship with Christ and with others, including those outside the context of followers of Jesus.

During the dark rise of Nazi Germany's demonic statism, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his powerful lecture Life Together: "Whoever cannot be alone should beware of community. Whoever cannot stand being in community should beware of being alone."

Solitude is not isolation; community is not group activity. Our time alone with God is preparation for time together with God's people. Both of which are preparation for worship before the throne of God and life-giving presence in the world.

Our relationships with one another provide more than our needs of belonging, of having value, special friendships, mentors and

spiritual fathers and mothers. Our relationships with one another are signposts of how the world will know we are Christ's disciples (John 13:34-35).

The apostle Paul's encouragement in 1 Corinthians 7:12–16 to believers

married to "Our relationships unbelievers provides a paradigm of the with one another power of redeeming relationships in the are signposts of world. Just as the how the world married believer brings a sanctifying will know we are influence to the home, our presence Christ's disciples." in the world brings a

sanctifying influence in the world, as we

are salt and light.

The call to godly relationshipsthe way we relate to one another as IPHC brothers and sisters and the larger body of Christ-is not meant to just make us feel better about ourselves. These relationships are part of our witness in this dark world.

The demonic darkness of 20th century totalitarian systems arose in supposedly Christian nations: Germany and Russia. No nation is immune from the temptations of demonic power, including the United States.

In spite of the growing technological advances in numerous fields of human endeavor, spiritual darkness remains ever present, because technology can be used for evil as well as good. The darkness has always been here—it's now capable of being spread with the speed of light. How shall we respond?

We can curse the darkness or we can be light in it-remembering that light disperses darkness. We can respond with fear and despair or we can affirm in love and truth the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We can be angry or we can

Encourage

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June/July 2015

Vol. 2 No. 6

Editor in Chief Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr.

Publisher International Pentecostal Holiness Church

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Encourage is published monthly except in July and December by the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, P.O. Box 12609, Oklahoma City, OK 73157. Digital subscriptions are available free of charge by contacting ibennett@iphc.org. Images courtesy of Thinkstock.com unless otherwise noted.

be filled with redeeming hope. We can compromise with the spirit of the age or we can be filled with the Holy Spirit. We can meet in fear-filled holy huddles or we can meet together in joyful worship of the Living God where our lives are transformed.

We can have pious-to-your-facerelationships undermined by behindyour-back-gossiping, or we can discern the glory of the Lord at work in each of us, transforming us into the image of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

This summer, the IPHC continues to focus on our theme, "We Prayerfully Value Pentecost." But our focus now is upon the fruit of the Spirit, the character of Jesus, the holy pattern of our relationships and character.

My prayer for myself and for this movement is that the life-giving relationship we have with the Holy Spirit will establish life-giving relationships with other followers of Jesus so that together we engage in life-giving relationships in this dying world. 🖵

WHY WE NEED TOMORROWLAND CHURCHES TODAY

If we are going to effectively reach our generation for Christ, we must step out of the past and embrace a bigger vision.



By Allen Mayo

ALLEN MAYO is a fourth generation ordained minister in the IPHC. Drawing on more than two decades of domestic and foreign ministry, he currently serves as a leadership development strategist for the Asia/Pacific region of World Missions Ministries. n the 1970s and '80s my parents took me to several trips to Disney theme parks. My favorite ride quickly became Space Mountain, a roller coaster located in the Tomorrowland section of Disney's Magic Kingdom.

Tomorrowland was Walt Disney's way of imagining what the future might look like and then providing park goers with an opportunity to get a preview of that tomorrow. In 2015, Walt Disney Pictures has brought Tomorrowland to the big screen starring award-winning actor George Clooney.

The release of Tomorrowland raises relevant questions for leaders in the church. For example: "How might churches of today shape what tomorrow looks like?" Or more specifically for those of us in the Pentecostal/ charismatic stream: "How might churches within Pentecostalism embrace the responsibility to shape the future?"

Thankfully, how God desires our local churches to shape the present and the future might not be as difficult to imagine as one might think, especially when we take a cue from King Solomon's majestic temple and magnificent kingdom at the pinnacle of ancient Israel's history. Simply said, what Solomon's temple of old was, the 21st century Pentecostal church is designed to be: Spirit-Empowered and World-Class Calibered.

In 1 Kings 10:24 we read: "The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart" (NIV). What a testimony! "The whole world sought audience with Solomon." It is the penultimate, historical testimony of the Old Testament Church—a Church both supernaturally endued and widely revered.

Or perhaps we could say it this way: It was Spirit-empowered and world-

class calibered. Yet, not only is this verse a historical testimony, it is a prophetic picture. It is the Holy Spirit illuminating for our imagination the ever-enlarging influence that Christ desires His New Testament church to have on society.

Regrettably, society in the early part of this century has all but relegated Christ's church to the sidelines as anything but a viable entity for addressing the present and future concerns of the cosmos.

We must help change this perception! Why? Because unbeknownst to itself, society is intrinsically seeking churches that are Solomonesque in nature. That is, like the masses that sought audience with Solomon, so today's society aches for local churches where an audience with Jesus Christ (the greater Solomon) can be found.

Innate within people today is the divinely placed desire to experience both the power of God and the wisdom of God that is capable of bringing wellbeing to their world. This is why the apostle Paul stresses the importance of preaching "Christ the power and wisdom of God" (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, NIV).

Here is a non-exhaustive list of five questions we can regularly ask ourselves to help us gauge how we are doing at developing Spirit-empowered, worldclass calibered churches.

1. ARE WE ADMINISTRATING OUR LOCAL CHURCH TO BE A TESTIMONY?

A divinely administrated infrastructure is one mark of a Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered church. Just how important is a well administrated church to this testimony? Administration was so impressive to the queen of Sheba that she brought a retinue of officials from her government seat to Israel's government seat just to study how she might better administrate her own affairs (cf. 1 Kings 10:4-5), and "Here is a nonexhaustive list of five questions we can regularly ask ourselves to help us gauge how we are doing at developing Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered churches."

Paul lists 'administration' as one of the Spirit's top gifts to the local church (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:27-28).

2. ARE WE INNOVATING TANGIBLE WAYS TO BRING WELLBEING TO OUR WORLD?

The wisdom of God flowing through Solomon brought innovative solutions for righteousness and justice which ultimately unleashed a spirit of wellbeing upon the people of Israel. Following Solomon's landmark decision surrounding the controversy between two women (which I refer to as "Baby-Gate"), 1 Kings 3:28 states: "When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice" (NIV). And Sheba exclaimed: "How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!" (1 Kings 10:8-9, NIV).

3. ARE WE GENERATING THE ATTENTION OF INFLUENTIAL LEADERS TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES?

A third mark of a Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered church is a divinely developing favor upon it to draw influential leaders to its doors. Sheba said to Solomon, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes" (1 Kings 10:6-7, NIV).

4. ARE WE ARTICULATING KINGDOM RESPONSES TO THE HARD QUESTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?

A Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered church grows in its ability to provide inquisitive dignitaries with divine solutions to difficult problems. "When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her" (1 Kings 10:1,3, NIV).

5. ARE WE CAPTIVATING THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE WITHIN OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE?

A fifth, but certainly not a final mark of a Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered church is its developing ability to draw all walks of life to its doors: the multigenerational, the multi-ethnic and the multi-economic. This is the beauty and the breadth behind 1 Kings 10:24: "The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart" (NIV).

Tomorrowland churches— Spirit-empowered, world-class calibered congregations—are on the rise now, shaping the future. In what ways have you recently been witnessing the Holy Spirit develop these characteristics in your local congregation? Let's break out of the confines of the past and step into a future where the Holy Spirit enables us to effectively reach our generation for Christ.

HOW TO BUILD LEADERS

Many pastors today are missing the obvious: If you want to build effective leaders, follow Christ's model.



By Greg Terry

GREG TERRY is an international evangelist, worship leader and Bible teacher. He currently ministers in 20 nations and throughout the United States speaking and leading worship at conferences, crusades and leadership events. An ordained IPHC minister, he focuses his work in the nations of the former Soviet Union and speaks Russian fluently. Greg and his wife Holly live in Greenville, Pennsylvania, with their three children. A ske a list of the 5 leaders you most admire. They can be from ministry, business, politics, technology, the sciences or any other field. Now ask yourself why you admire them. The chances are high that your admiration is based on more than their accomplishments, impressive as those may be. Each successful leader has something that sets him or her apart and compels people to follow them.

The ability to reach people in a way that transcends the intellectual and rational is the mark of great leaders. *They all have it. They inspire us.* It's as simple as that. When we are inspired we tap into our best selves and deliver amazing results.

But who is the greatest leader? That's simple: It's Jesus Christ. Fully man and fully God, He initiated a revolution through 12 followers that literally turned the world upside down.

In analyzing the leadership style of Jesus I find a powerful pattern for becoming a great leader. The method of Jesus was simple. He began with relationship. Relationship would then birth trust. Trust would bring his followers to responsibility, and the fulfillment of responsibility would release his followers into His authority.

Let's explore these concepts:

1. RELATIONSHIP.

In Matthew 4:19 we find the inception of the relationship between Jesus and Simon Peter and Andrew when Jesus declared, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." His encouragement was simple: "Follow me, spend time with me and learn from me."

Today leaders often miss the obvious. They look for a new strategy or the latest book, gimmick or methodology for quality leadership. The truth is, relationship always works. As leaders we are required to have relationship with those who follow us. We must invest time in getting close to those whom we lead. We must ensure that they are not just a pawn that we direct as a great chess player. We don't *use* people. We build relationships with them!

We must get to know those who follow—to know their names and their families, to celebrate their victories with them, to endure with them in time of defeat. In doing this, a sacrificial bond will develop that will allow a true and proper formation of relationship that will cause one to be an inspiring leader with motivated followers.

2. TRUST.

Once a proper relationship is established, the natural flow out of that relationship will be an environment of trust between the leader and follower. Jesus was well aware of this as He continually developed relationship with His disciples and then, very naturally, He would put them into situations where He could release them in trust.

Matthew 10:1 says: "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease."

What a powerful picture of trust this is. Jesus called his disciples to Him in relationship and then in trust He released them to be about the business of the Kingdom. One of the flaws of a modern leader is the transitioning

"We must invest time in getting close to those whom we lead. We don't *use* people. We build relationships with them!" between relationship and trust. Many leaders are fearful in trusting their followers with the ministry of the church.

This very fear will hinder a leader from being the type of leader that Jesus was. Build relationships as Jesus did by spending time with your followers and then, with joy, create an atmosphere of trust that communicates your confidence in them to carry out the tasks of ministry. In doing this you will create an atmosphere of unity that will not be easily broken.

3. RESPONSIBILITY.

Jesus did not stop in His leadership method after successful completion of the first two steps. Many times as modern leaders, we abort our leadership development in mid-process or we simply get our progression out of order. We often try to create strong followers too quickly, or release responsibility without trust and our ministry and style becomes based on "hoping for the best."

Jesus operated in perfect order and continued His process of developing strong leaders on His team. Once the strong personal relationships were developed and an atmosphere of trust was in place, He then provided them an opportunity to "spread their wings" as future leaders.

In a nutshell he said: "I trust you and I am not going to stop with trust only but I am now going to release you into responsibility." Matthew 10:5-7 states: "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

The methodology of Jesus was perfect. The relationship between Him and His disciples birthed trust. Once trust was established, He was able to release greater responsibility to them. Continually groom your relationships in a way that births trust and ultimately allows you to release responsibility to those you lead.

4. AUTHORITY.

The ultimate goal of all strong leaders is to raise up followers who will accomplish much more than they otherwise could. Once again we find Jesus creating the perfect example for us to follow. After He established relationship, trust and responsibility, He knew that there must be a final step of fulfillment that would allow His disciples to succeed even after His return to the Father. The culmination of this process would be when Jesus released His disciples in authority.

In Matthew 28 we find Jesus giving the Great or Ultimate Commission to His disciples, saying: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." What a masterpiece of leadership development as Jesus declared, "I have all authority, I have been with you and now I release you to go and do as I did."

His process was simple yet powerful. He began with relationships that birthed trust. From that atmosphere of trust He gave responsibility, and once responsibility was fulfilled with all joy He released His followers in authority and inspired them to accomplish more than they ever thought possible.

Today the mandate is simple. Let us do as Jesus did! \Box

WHY EVERY LEADER NEEDS CLOSE COVENANT FRIENDS

Many church leaders are isolated and alone. You can break the trend by being a friend to someone else.



By J. LEE

Grady

J. LEE GRADY is an ordained IPHC minister who serves as contributing editor of *Charisma* magazine and editor of *Encourage*. He also directs The Mordecai Project, an international missions organization based in Florida. He is a member of the IPHC's Sonshine Conference. The Bible says Christians should experience deep connections with each other because we share the same indwelling Holy Spirit. In fact, the Greek word for fellowship, as used in Acts 2:42, is *koinonia*, which implies intimate communion and selfless sharing.

Yet as I travel and meet Christians all over the country, I find that the church today is actually a very lonely place. Many people have experienced a total relationship shutdown. Some have walked through painful church splits, others have been betrayed by friends they trusted, and still others have closed their hearts entirely to avoid being hurt. As a result, *koinonia* becomes a fancy theological word for something they will never experience.

It's as if we forgot how to have true friends. I've even met pastors who've told me they just can't risk building friendships. So they live in isolation. They bear their own burdens. They get no encouragement. Some end up in depression. They are engaging in one of the most stressful careers on the planet, yet without a shoulder to lean on or an arm to pat them on the back.

Something is wrong with this picture!

Recently the Holy Spirit drew me to study the friendship that developed between David and Jonathan during David's early years. It is clear from the biblical record that God put Jonathan in David's life at a crucial time in his journey to the throne. And if it were not for Jonathan's covenant relationship with his friend, David would never have been able to overcome the obstacles he faced during the reign of King Saul. The same is true for all of us. You will never achieve your maximum spiritual potential without the help of those key relationships God places around you. Yet in order to benefit from these friendships you must open your heart and take the risk of being a friend.

How can you move from being isolated to developing close friendships? Proverbs 18:24 says: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly" (NKJV). You can't wait for a friend to reach out to you. Take the first step and be willing to break the stalemate. British preacher Charles Spurgeon put it this way: "Any man can selfishly desire to have a Jonathan; but he is on the right track who desires to find out a David to whom he can be a Jonathan."

Here are six qualities I see in Jonathan that challenge me to be a better friend:

1. JONATHAN NURTURED A SPIRITUAL BOND.

After David killed Goliath and moved to Saul's palace, the Bible says "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" (1 Sam. 18:1). This is the work of the Holy Spirit. All Christians should experience a sense of family connection, but there are certain friends you will feel deeply connected to because God is putting you in each other's lives for a reason. Don't resist this process. Let God knit you to people.

2. JONATHAN SHOWED SACRIFICIAL LOVE.

Jonathan loved David so much that he risked his life to help him fulfill his mission. Jonathan even dodged Saul's spear in his effort to help his friend. He lived in the spirit of Jesus' words about friendship: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). The world says we should only care about our own success. But the best way to become more like Jesus is to help someone else succeed!

3. JONATHAN ALWAYS OFFERED ENCOURAGEMENT.

When David was fleeing from Saul in the wilderness, Jonathan traveled to Horesh to cheer up his friend (1 Sam. 23:16). There were times in David's life when he had to encourage himself, but in this case Jonathan was God's instrument. We need each other! If you allow the Holy Spirit to speak life and hope through you, your words can propel your friends into their destiny.

4. JONATHAN OFFERED HIS FRIEND PROTECTION.

When Jonathan realized his father was plotting to kill David, he not only warned him of danger but he concocted a plan to deliver his friend (1 Sam. 19:1-4). Friends don't let friends get massacred in spiritual warfare. If you see a friend making a foolish mistake, or if you sense the enemy is targeting him, God can use you to avert a disaster. Speak the truth in love.

5. JONATHAN KEPT HIS FRIEND'S PAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

David confided in his friend Jonathan, and in some cases he poured out his heart in frustration. At one point he said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity?" (1 Sam. 20:1). When I'm going through a difficult trial, I sometimes just need to vent. And I have loyal friends who let me process my pain ... and they don't run and tell others else about my weakness. This is true friendship.

6. JONATHAN HARBORED NO JEALOUSY.

"You will never achieve your maximum spiritual potential without the help of those key relationships God places around you."

At one point in David's journey, Jonathan realized his friend would one day be king of Israel. This was actually Jonathan's inheritance, since he was Saul's son, but he acknowledged that God had chosen David instead. So he gave David his royal robe, his armor and his weapons (see

1 Sam. 18:3-4). This is a

beautiful picture of how we are to prefer and honor each other. Jealousy destroys friendship. If we have God's love in our hearts, we will want our friends to surpass us.

I am blessed to have many close friends in ministry. Some of them have looked me in the eye and challenged my priorities. Some have prayed with me through difficult decisions. Some have driven long distances just to show up at my door to encourage me. I would not be where I am today if it had not been for their selfless concern.

If you've been hurt in previous relationships, break out of your isolation and ask God to heal your heart. Then choose to be a Jonathan to someone else.

WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER AVOID CONFRONTATION

Don't back away when God calls you to challenge someone's actions or attitudes.



By Brad Reynolds

BRAD REYNOLDS serves as the bishop of the IPHC's Ephesians 4 Network, which includes churches in eight states. He is also the senior pastor of Crossroads Worship Center in Howard City, Michigan. Before working with E4Network, he traveled full time as an evangelist and has been involved in multiple church plants. He and his wife, Susan, have three children. Onfronting people is one of the toughest jobs I've personally encountered as a pastor and superintendent. Like most people, I prefer not to have a confrontation. At times I have tried to avoid confrontation, though I have learned that I am only delaying the inevitable; either I can initiate it or it will come to me. If I wait until it comes to me the damage is often much greater than if I had dealt with it sooner.

Keeping order in God's church is a must. As the saying goes, "You can't change what you are not willing to confront."

The Apostle Paul was no stranger to correcting people, calling people out by name in his epistles, even instructing us to openly rebuke an elder (see 1 Timothy 5:20). He wanted everyone living in right relationship with God and when he rebuked or corrected someone he hoped that it would bring about repentance.

He wrote candidly about his experience with confrontation. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 says: "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (NKJV).

In Patrick Lencioni's book *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, it is noted that one of the dysfunctions of a team is fear of conflict. When people are frustrated with something or someone and are not able to speak out how they feel, or are unwilling to do so, they will take out their frustrations in other ways. Some even leave the church.

"When we allow people to sin in the church in an unrestrained manner, our silence validates their behavior."

Confrontation sometimes is not enough—we must even take necessary actions. Eli confronted and rebuked his sons, but they did not listen; and because Eli didn't restrain his sons, it brought judgment on his house forever. This is confirmed in 1 Samuel 3:13: "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them" (NKJV).

Doing nothing *is* doing something. When we allow people to sin in the church in an unrestrained manner, our silence validates their behavior. We should confront and do so as expeditiously as possible. As you seek to lead your church with integrity, and to confront when necessary, keep these principles in mind:

1. We must fear God more than we fear man.

Proverbs 29:25 says: "The fear of man brings a snare: but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." Keeping order in God's house protects His sheep. We should not be more concerned about the reaction of one or two above taking care of God's sheep.

How many times have pastors been unwilling to correct their spiritual sons and daughters because of fear they would be offended? It is God's church. When we obey His Word, we can trust fully in Him.

2. Unseen collateral damage takes place when we fail to confront, especially in our

leadership. It has been my experience that almost every time, people become collateral damage as a result of the leader's inaction.

The problem is that we, as pastors, can tolerate someone's behavior because we are the ones in charge and it doesn't affect us as it does others in the church. Waiting too long can result in people getting frustrated and leaving the church ... or worse yet, people may begin to join the person causing problems in their sin.

Sinful behavior can therefore become like cancer cells that spread through the church. There are unforeseen spiritual doors that are opened, and shutting any door on the enemy should be done quickly. When you correct someone it not only brings order in the natural, but it also brings spiritual order.

Tolerating sin on any level is not pleasing to God, and by tolerating it we are validating it. Jesus called the early church to confront false teaching in Revelation 2:20: "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."

The Greek word used in this passage for "allow" is *eao*, which means: "Not to restrain, permit, to let go." So it is our job as pastors and elders in the church to restrain sin, not permitting it, especially among leaders.

When a leader does not follow your instruction it is insubordination, which is rebellion. Remember, God removed Saul as king because he rebelled against God and did not obey His voice. We teach people with our actions as well as with words. When leaders are rebelling, what are they teaching those in the church?

3. Don't procrastinate when you need to

confront. The old saying goes, "Pay me now or pay me later." It is likely that

there will be some fallout from a confrontation. Usually the damage is lessened when the problem is dealt with early, or the situation will become so grave that we will have no choice but to address it.

Church splits could often be avoided if leadership had dealt with the situation sooner. The price of waiting too long is great. Church members forced to wait for leadership to take action will often have chosen sides, priming the church for a potential split or people leaving in masses.

Finally, always pray for God's wisdom, and trust in Him to help you, when you have to confront. And always do everything in love, hoping that those you confront will, as Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, have godly sorrow that produces repentance.

