

Port Orchard Church of Christ

• Jesus is Lord • Jesus is Lifted • Jesus is Lived •

Resolving Church Conflict

The Lord's plan for his church is flawless. As individual members of his body, however, we are in the process of growth; we have not reached a state of perfection. There is no such thing as a flawless family or perfect work environment. Nor is there a perfect congregation.

Problems will arise within a church for a number of reasons. For instance, individuals will have different opinions. We must "speak the same thing" in matters of doctrine (1 Cor. 1:10; cf. 2 Jn. 9-10), but there must be latitude in other areas. Different stages of spiritual development, personality differences, misunderstandings — all of these things can contribute to tension. While we recognize that personal friction is inevitable, the New Testament commands us to work towards the resolution of all conflicts. In Philippians 4:2-3, Paul exhorted the church at Philippi. He wrote:

"I exhort Euodia, and I exhort Syntyche, to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yea, I beseech thee also, my true yokefellow, help these women, for they labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life."

The cause of the problem between these women is unknown; however, Paul's admonition to unity contains some key aspects for conflict resolution. Consider the following points.

1. The situation was urgent. The word translated "exhort" is *parakaleo*, literally "to call near, beside, into the proximity of." It is rendered "appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage" (Arndt and Gingrich, **Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**, p. 617). Paul entreated them to resolve their difficulties. One must not "let the sun go down" upon his wrath (Eph. 4:26).
2. Paul exhorts both individuals. "I exhort Euodia, and I exhort Syntyche, to be of the same mind" (v. 2). Problems can be resolved when both sides are willing to sit down and work towards reconciliation. Most significantly, this calls for both sides to desire resolution. Offended parties may never agree on the nature of the blame, or the offense. But their desire

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Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first cen-

ture church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs,

we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Save the Dates!

Sunday 04/14 *Potluck*
After Services

Tuesday 04/16 *Ladies Prayer*
10:00am *Meeting: LaDonna Latham's House*

Wednes 04/17 *Prayer*
6:00pm

Thursday 04/18 *Men's Meeting*
6:30pm

Saturday 05/04 *Deacons Meeting*
8:00am

Sunday 05/05 *Congregational Meeting*
After Services

Port Orchard News and Events

Sunday Preview

Gene Gerard will be giving the sermon this Sunday. Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

April—Jim Snead-06, Elijah Cormier-07, Jacob Hammock-10, Brandon Karn-10, Jarrod Coley-12, Rick Velasco-13, Misty Hammock-15, James Greer-17, Lori Sanders-28.

Last Sunday

James Greer gave the sermon last Sunday. To listen, go to pococ.weebly.com/teachings.html

Sunday Nights

When: Starting April 14th at 6:30pm

Where: POCOC Auditorium

Topic: *I Corinthians*

Serving April 14, 2019:

Prayer Leader: Dale Sanders

Scripture Reader: Gene Gerard

Offering Thoughts: Wayne Hammock

Communion Meditation: Ken Avery

Servers: Brandon Zepf/Greg Warner

Ushers: Rick Velasco/Dan Gross

Greeters: Dale Sanders/DeLoris Lawler

Prayer Partners: Terry & Lisa Bratcher

Sound: Isaac Benjamin

Slides/Lighting: Lisa Bratcher

Communion Prep&CleanUp: Rick Velasco

Song Leader: Jamin Mason

Children's 9:30 Teacher: Jessica Zepf

Youth Worship: Rachel Karn

Preaching: Gene Gerard

Youth Memory Verse:

John 13:34

Message from LaDonna

(This note was found posted on the foyer bulletin board.)

To My Church Family,

For all your prayers, help and encouragement over the past 3 years, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have shown me Jesus at every turn. David and I could not have survived without you. I give our God glory and praise for the Port Orchard Church of Christ.

May God bless you all.

LaDonna Latham

Women's Roles (Note from the Deacons)

It was the consensus of the congregational meeting that to avoid distractions from the fundamental mission of the church, for now, there won't be a church-wide focus on the discussion surrounding women's roles in the church. The individual members of this church family are encouraged to continue praying for clarity, talking and studying the Word in regard to this issue, and to walk in love. (Ephesians 5:1) If you want more information about this, please contact a person who was at the congregational meeting.

Mountain States Children's Home

Please take home a can and get it filled by August.

Easter Plans

When: Sunday, April 21st

8:30am: Breakfast of ham, eggs, and sausage provided through the church and sides provided through potluck. *Contact Bonnie Mitchell for details.*

9:30am: Egg Scramble (We don't really have places to hide eggs outside. Kids will be divided into 3 age categories and unleashed on the grounds to gather eggs from three separate areas.)

10:45am: Special Service

Thank you for all of your donations! We DO have everything we need now!



Our Prayer List

Healing:

Brad Peterson, Baby Maddy Read, Clyde Griffin, Rachel Karn, Those Suffering from Colds and Allergies

Encouragement:

Barbara Chasteen (ankle), Family of Baby Tommy, Bobette Dehlin's Family, Randy Knox and Family, LaDonna Latham & Family, All Children in the Memory Verse/Bible Reading Program, Tiny Village Team, Our Congregation

Other:

Northwest Mission, For those who fear the possible Tiny Cabin Village, Our families, nation, President Trump and leaders. Our ministries, Deacons & Congregation.

April 7, 2019

Worship: 68

Class: 41

Offering: \$2,456.28

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should be to move forward with sincerity, humility, and love. Attitude plays a major role in solving problems (cf. Eph. 4:1-3). The principles for dealing with personal grievances are set out by the Lord in Matthew 5:23ff and 18:15-17. When a brother is aware that a spiritual sibling has something against him (i.e., a genuine concern), then that brother is obligated to initiate contact to resolve the problem (Mt. 5:23). On the other hand, the person who has an actual complaint (i.e., not a petty grievance) against a brother, is obligated to remedy the conflict as well. The stand-offish gripe, "he didn't come to me," is neither biblical nor practical. Both the offender and the offended are required to seek out the other so that these types of situations do not remain un-addressed.

3. Paul looks for intervention. "Yea, I beseech thee also, true yokefellow, help these women" (v. 3). Paul encouraged this faithful mem-

ber of the church in Philippi to give assistance. He did not recommend that either member fire a shot of accusation, followed by a membership move to another church. Although this tactic is faddish, it resolves nothing. Noteworthy is the fact that Paul addressed this mediator as a "true yokefellow" (i.e., an authentic co-worker in the Lord). Similarly, in Galatians 6:1-2, Paul advised the spiritually minded to restore those overtaken in a trespass. Some people are more capable in dealing with volatile crises. Others may get caught up in a "feeding frenzy" of excitement and controversy, assuming the worst of the elders, the preacher, or other members. A qualified person can assist in problem-solving by focusing on resolution. He will not become part of the problem. As the apostle Paul indicated, a capable intermediary may be able to make a positive contribution in settling a conflict.

4. Paul notes that the souls of people are at stake. "Yea, I beseech thee also, true

yokefellow, help these women, for they labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life" (v. 3). The work of the church suffers as problems go unresolved. Attitudes of hostility and resentment have no place in the Lord's church. We all are trying to live for Christ. *Can we not maintain that perspective?*

Christian unity is the product of Christianity in practice. Through prayer, and the application of texts like Philippians 4:2-3, God's people can all work and worship in unity; the bond that holds us together is love (Col. 3:14). We will have a perfect environment in heaven. Until then, the Lord expects us to work out our problems — staying focused on heaven.

-Jason Jackson

Jackson, Jason. "Resolving Church Conflicts." *ChristianCourier.com*. Access date: April 9, 2019. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1179-resolving-church-conflicts>

