

# OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Mid Week Message

*Gather... Connect... Grow... Impact!*

DECEMBER 22, 2021

### “The Power of Reconciliation”

One of my responsibilities at Open Door Christian Church is to help us transition into a church God envisioned us to be in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The church will take on a new feel while resolving the problems of the past. The problems you identified are:

- **Conflict had gotten out of control,**
- Lack of young people,
- Lack of communication,
- Confusion over what we are to do,
- Not sure of the church’s purpose,
- Can’t keep a preacher.

**NOTE:** These are the same issues that plague 200,000 churches in America that cause 10-12,000 churches to close each year!

**DOUBLE NOTE:** Very few churches are making the effort to do what you are doing! We are becoming a model of hope for struggling churches!

For the next several weeks, I will give the solution to these issues that will go a long way to being a healthy Body of Jesus Christ.

The concern being addressed in this article is outlined in red: **Conflict!**

Conflict is everywhere. The key to conflict is addressing it early, treating it gracefully, non-emotionally, and always have reconciliation as the goal! If possible, conflict should be addressed with the two parties involved. If needed, always seek advice from a MATURE person of faith on how to have a conversation or to help resolve the conflict. The longer conflict persists, the worse it gets! IT DOES NOT GO AWAY!

To prevent conflict from getting out of control, we will be doing the following:

**Always keep the church’s mission before us.** Unity is achieved when **EVERYONE** in the church is actively involved in the church’s mission. The mission of the church is to build God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. This means **EVERYONE** has a place within this mission. **EVERYONE’S** effort is critical and leads to the second item.

**Place expectations on each person.** **ALL OF US** are expected to grow in our faith three ways: learn with a small group, worship consistently, and be a part of a ministry. As the maturity in our faith increases, conflict decreases. Not a coincidence.

**Church covenants.** Covenants are a chosen relationship which people voluntarily enter in which two parties make binding promises to each other. Covenants are the backbone to the body of Christ. They keep us together and focused on our unique identity as Disciples of Jesus Christ. They remind us of our responsibility to love to each other and the world with God’s love by maturing in our faith together.

**Equip Elders.** The Elders represent the healthy and mature “parents” of the church. Part of their responsibility is overseeing the health of the church with Grace and respect and keep the church moving in direction of its mission. “Growing” Elders into mature men and women of faith sets the tone for the entire congregation. The Elders role is to always work toward reconciliation.

As I stated earlier, conflict will happen. However, we must be committed to conclude all conflict with reconciliation, respect, trust, grace, spiritual growth, and acceptance. Unresolved conflict breeds anger, resentment, betrayal, intolerance, gossip and descension.

Jesus wisely observed in Mark’s Gospel, “If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” We are seeing houses fall in the form of churches at an alarming rate! Therefore, we must learn to love each other appropriately so we can love the world we are called to transform!

*Danny*