

The Principle of “Giving a Good Report”

In an effort to exalt Jesus Christ and to build the body of believers, we have chosen as a Christian School to commit ourselves to the habit of “Giving a Good Report”. In order to achieve this commitment, we will utilize the scriptural process of Matthew 18 to restore godly relationships.

The scriptural basis for “Giving a Good Report”, springs forth from the example of faith shown by our early Judeo-Christian forefathers. In the book of Numbers, Chapters 13 and 14, God honored the “Good Report” of Caleb and Joshua upon their return from spying out the Promised Land. In sad contrast, God cursed the Israelite community because they believed the bad report that was given by the ten remaining spies.

We at CCS want to be part of the faithful heritage of Caleb and Joshua and choose to give a good report. We desire to give a good report no matter how grim, distasteful, hurtful or repugnant the offending circumstances may be. This decision rests not in an attempt to ignore or repress the offending circumstances, but to settle disputes in a way that would honor Christ and build the Body of believers. It is in this way that we say to the watching world and to our children, “We choose the way of the Lord!”.

Therefore, we will commit ourselves in obedience to God’s Word to follow the steps found in Matthew Chapter 18:15,16. We will use this scripture as a guide to settle disputes of any kind at CCS. We further commit any strained relationship to the Lord. We do this in order to avoid the snare of gossip and slander that the evil one would place before us.

Following are direct steps to be used to maintain a “Good Report”.

Covenant

In obedience to God’s Holy Word and commitment to practicing Biblical Resolution Management, I promise to follow the Principle of “Giving a Good Report.” That is, my words are to glorify God, build harmony at CCS, and avoid conflict. I will do as Matthew 18 admonishes – go to an offending brother “first alone”.

First Step

When I am unable to give a good report about my brother or sister, young or old, I will go to him/her *privately* in an attempt to set things right. I will not first share the offense with another person. I will try to understand their actions based upon their perspective.

Second Step

If my brother or sister will still not listen to me, I will take one or two trusted “witnesses”. I will NOT choose these “witnesses” because they will agree with me or will take my side. I will take with me ONLY those persons who have deep spiritual wisdom, are highly respected and trustworthy. (Possible suggestions: An unbiased Pastor, Administrator or Co-worker).

WARNING

I will not seek to find others who have also been offended, nor share my concerns with potential “witnesses” prior to the meeting with my brother or sister. The

purpose of having a witness is not to validate my hurt but rather to open my heart and mind to the possible needs I may have regarding my relationship with others.

I realize my friends may naturally listen to my concerns, but also take up my offense. I will, therefore, not cause them to become a party to a possible division and disharmony because of our friendship. Whenever I feel an urge to share the offense with my friends, I will pray and commune with God about my hurt.

CONFRONTING MINISTRY LEADERS

I believe in the scriptural admonition to not rebuke a Spiritual Leader, other than in grave matters of misconduct and open sin (1 Timothy 5:19). I will earnestly pray for and follow those God has placed in leadership over me. I will not allow anyone to criticize them without following the principles in Matthew 18 and without the specific person present.

If I have a problem with my ministry leader, I will go “first alone” to them. I will not share my concern with anyone. I will listen and try to understand their perspective of the problem. If I am not satisfied with their explanation and continue to have animosity, I will ask their permission and counsel to find a “witness” who will listen to our conflict.

If the “witness” finds I have misunderstood the situation and should continue no further, I will trust God to complete His work in my life by casting my burden on the Lord and leaving it there. If the “witness” agrees with my concern and finds the ministry leader wrong and the leader refuses to hear the “witness”, we will then find a group of two or three other “witnesses” who will hear the matter and determine what God is doing through this conflict.

Third Step

If the dispute with my brother or sister is still not resolved, I will seek the assistance of the entire administration (including the full Board of Directors), in order to resolve the dispute. I am committed to pleasing God through resolving my conflicts, even if it means separating myself from the source of my irritations.

Ultimate Goal

I commit myself to be spiritual rather than “normal” and supernatural rather than “natural” when it comes to solving my problems with others. I want God’s will and way to resolve my conflicts and will do as the Holy Bible teaches, regardless of my normal and natural feelings.

My ultimate goal is to glorify God through bearing much fruit and avoiding and resolving conflicts.

Finally, after each of these steps have been followed, it should be understood that as Christians and pursuant to our desire to settle our disputes peacefully, we will accept in a humble and submissive manner, any direction given by the Administration. In every instance, the Administration will operate as our Final Court of Appeals.

I have read the "Giving a Good Report" and do hereby agree in principle and practice.

signature

date