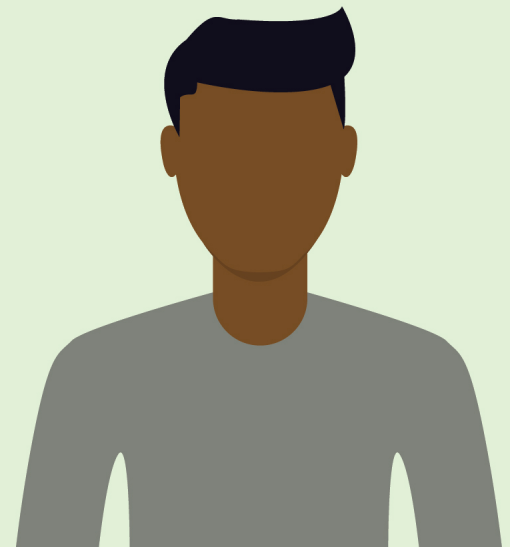
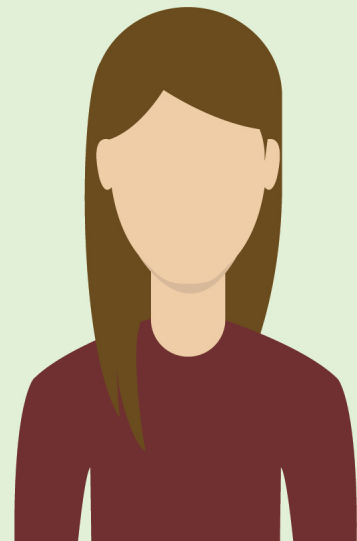
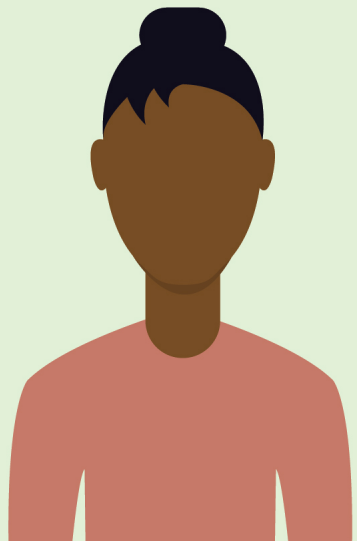


#The Struggle is Real  
#RELATIONSHIPS



We are designed for relationship,  
but along the way those relationships  
got all 'messed up'.

Our only hope is the **Spirit-filled life** that  
gives us the ability to...

**'submit to one another'.**

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Last week I had a challenge  
for us that I hope will help us get  
to the place where we are more  
effective in relationships...

**'submit to one another'.**



Last week I had a challenge

40 days of *TOWARD* God

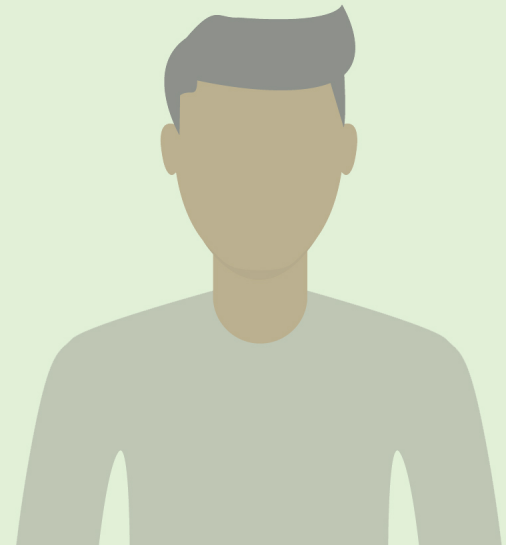
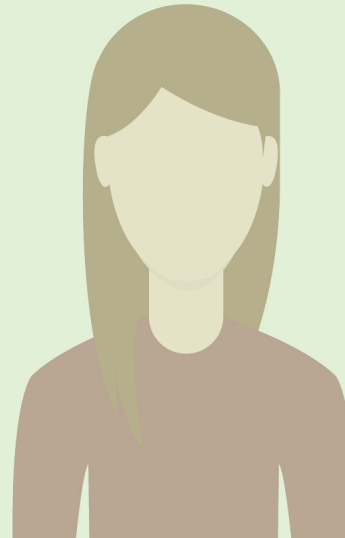
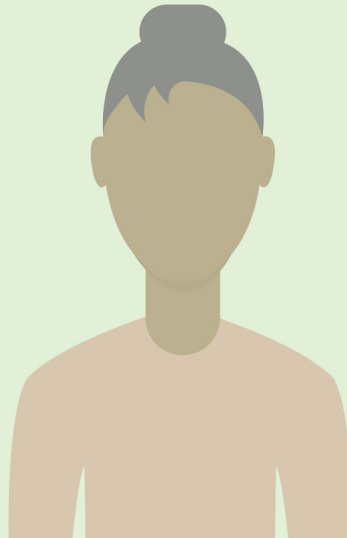
*WITH* one another

in Psalm 119, Psalm 120-134...

'submit to one another'.

## Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-20

- 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
- 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



**15 Look carefully then how you walk,**

not as unwise but as wise,

**16 making the best use of the time,**

because the days are evil.

**17 Therefore do not be foolish,**

but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**18 And do not get drunk with wine,**

for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

**19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and**

spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the

Lord with your hearts,

**20 giving thanks always for everything to God the Father**

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

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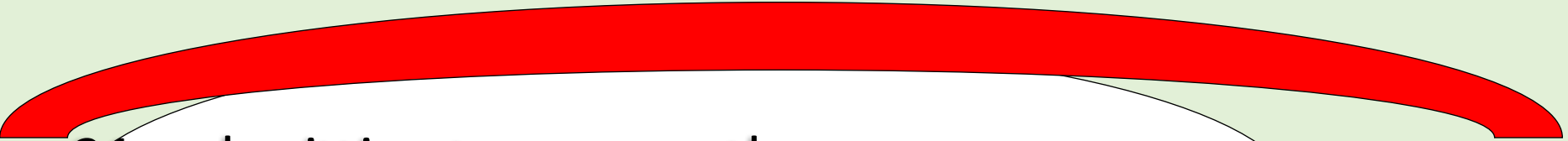
21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

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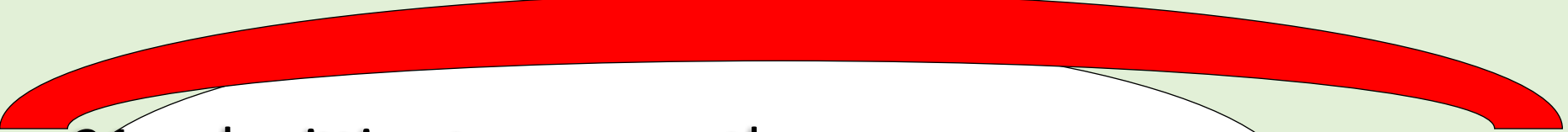
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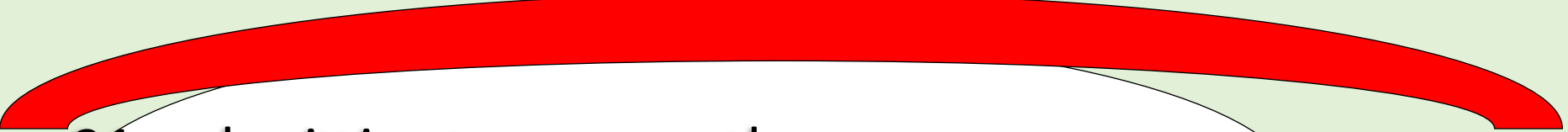


21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

*...to yield...*

*...to offer...*



21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

***...to stop resisting...***

***...to stop hiding...***

21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

MARRIAGE

Husbands and Wives

21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

FAMILY

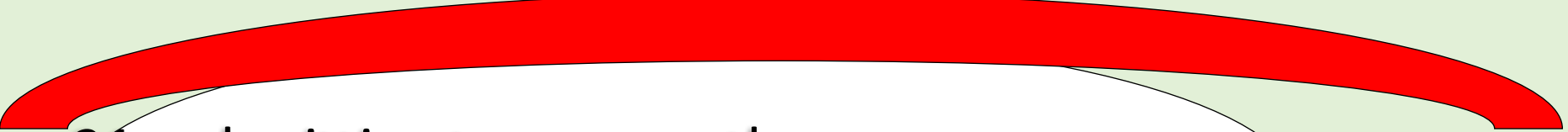
Parents and children

21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

Workplace

Employers and Employees



21 submitting to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.

.....

Church Conflict

Brothers and Sisters

3 types of conflict that has to be dealt with in a church...



## 3 types of conflict that has to be dealt with in a church...

1. Blatant sin by a believer...  
....un-confessed and un-repentant.

## 3 types of conflict that has to be dealt with in a church...

1. Blatant sin by a believer...  
....un-confessed and un-repentant.
1. Conflict with leadership.

## 3 types of conflict that has to be dealt with in a church...

1. Blatant sin by a believer...  
....un-confessed and un-repentant.
1. Conflict with leadership.
1. Conflict between believers.

**1. Blatant sin by a believer...un-confessed and un-repentant.**

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## **I Corinthians 5**

# 1. Blatant sin by a believer...un-confessed and un-repentant.

## I Corinthians 5:6-13

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.

8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## 1. Blatant sin by a believer...un-confessed and un-repentant.

- 9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—
- 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
- 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

# 1. Blatant sin by a believer...un-confessed and un-repentant.

12 For what have I do do with judging outsiders?

Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside.

“Purge the evil person from among you.”



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“Purge the evil person from among you.”

### **Galatians 6:1**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

## 2. Conflict with leadership.

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At times believers might not be content with the direction or actions of church leaders. This was the case early in the history of the church (Acts 6:1-6). Complaints about the lack of care of a certain group in the church were taken up with the leaders. This was remedied and the church grew (Acts 6:7). The early church used a conflict to improve the ministry. However, when churches do not have a clear process of dealing with such concerns, people tend to create their own platforms. Individuals may begin polling others in the church, get involved in gossip, or even develop a bloc of “concerned people”.

## 2. Conflict with leadership.

Leadership can help avoid this by leading as selfless, loving shepherds that are examples of servanthood rather than leaders who lord over others (I Peter 5:1-3). Those who are frustrated should: ***respect the leaders*** (Hebrews 13:7, 17),  
***be slow to accuse them*** (I Timothy 5:19),  
and ***speak truth lovingly to them,***  
***not to others about them*** (Ephesians 4:15).

On those occasions when it appears the leader is not responding to the concern, an individual should follow the pattern set down in Matthew 18:15-17 to ensure that there is no confusion as to where each stands.

### 3. Conflict between believers.

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#### Matthew 18

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**Matthew 18:15-20**

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#### Matthew 18:15-20

- 15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.  
If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.
- 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.



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### 3. Conflict between believers.

- 18 Truly, I say to you,  
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,  
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- 19 Again I say to you,  
if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask,  
it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.
- 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
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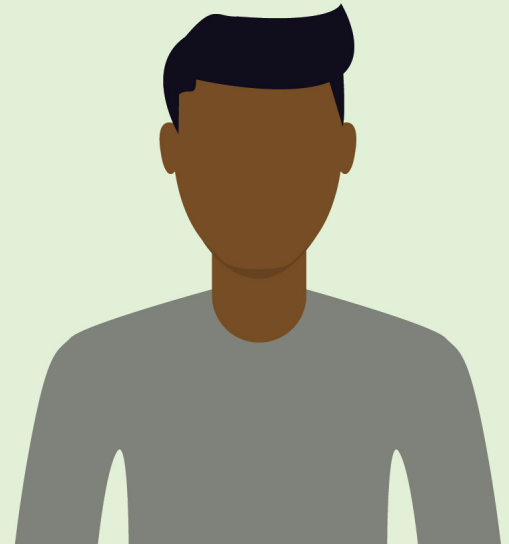
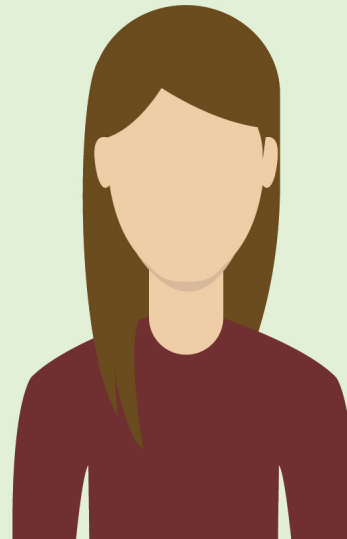
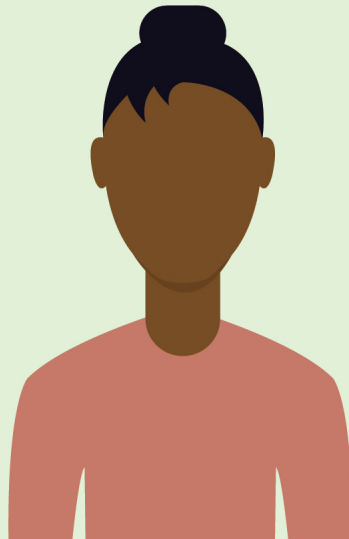
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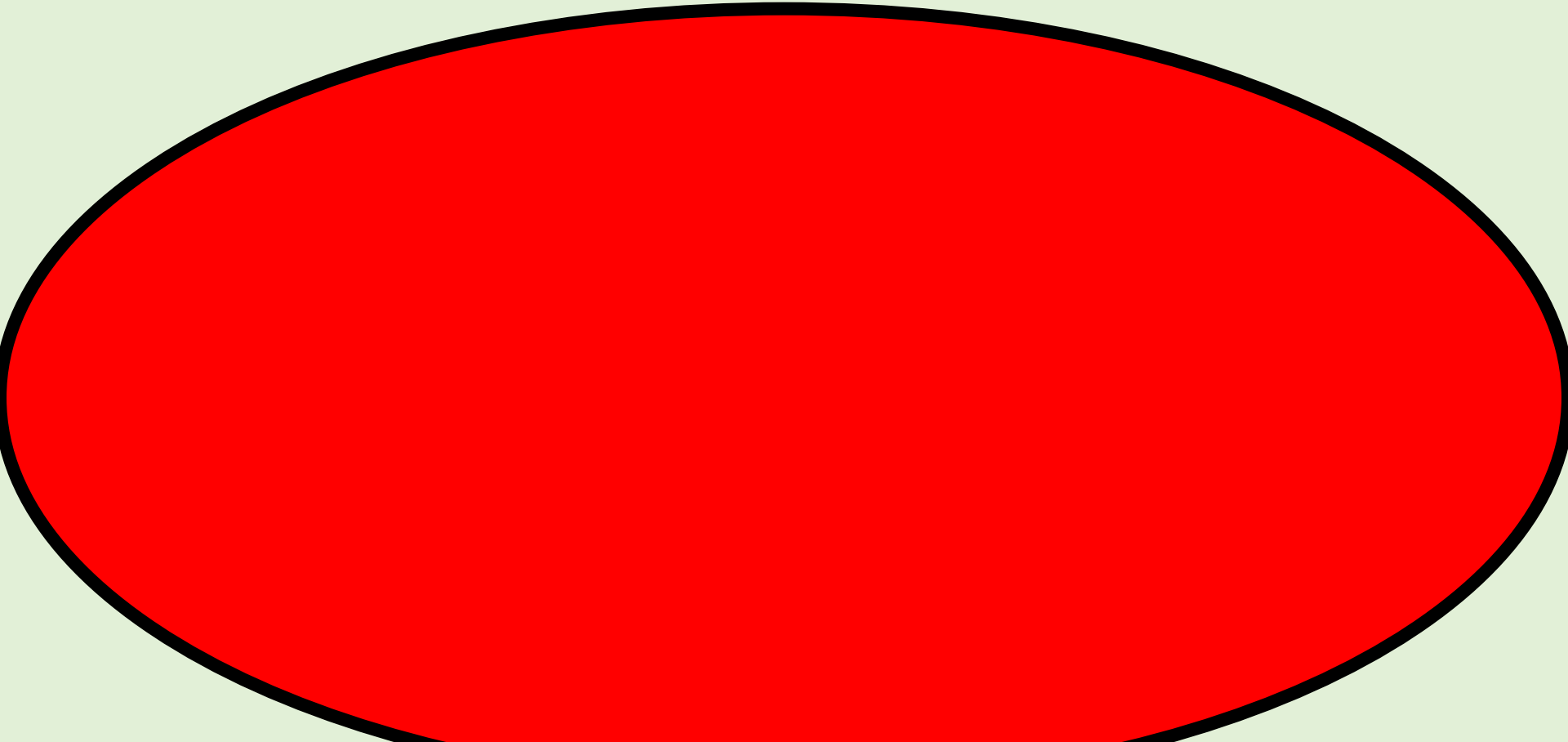
**'submit to one another'.**



So...therefore...what now?



In order to be in healthy 'mutually submissive'  
relationships in a church...



In order to be in healthy 'mutually submissive'  
relationships in a church...

15 And do not get drunk with wine,  
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relationships in a church...

15 And do not get drunk with wine,  
for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit,**

**16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,**

In order to be in healthy 'mutually submissive' relationships in a church...

*...realize our personal unrepentant sin not only undermines our own walk with God but also our interpersonal relationships and even the life of the entire body of Christ.*

In order to be in healthy 'mutually submissive'  
relationships in a church...

*...we need to  
avoid painting targets  
on the backs of leaders...  
while leaders need to care for the  
hurts and needs of people.*

In order to be in healthy 'mutually submissive' relationships in a church...

*...we need to love one another enough to go face to face to integrate both grace and truth rather than talk behind their backs...and if that doesn't remedy the problem we need to have the wisdom of when and if we should include others in an effort to build reconciliation.*



**We are designed for relationships,**





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