

WHEN COMMUNITY FAILS

1. What to do if you see church hurt — SPEAK UP. (Ephesians 5:3-4, 8-15)

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving... ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise... "

Ephesians 5:3-4, 8-15 (NIV)

2. What to do if you've hurt someone in the church — MAKE IT RIGHT. (Matthew 5:23-24)

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 (NIV)

3. What to do if you or someone you know has been hurt by the church — (Genesis 16:6-10, 13-16)

"Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. ⁷ The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. ⁹ Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." ... ¹³ She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen^[c] the One who sees me." ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi^[d]; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son, and

Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 16:6-10, 13-16 (NIV)

- VALIDATE the feelings of hurt, loss, anger, or pain are real.
- Remember that God did NOT HURT you but is GRIEVING with you.
- Over time, ask God to help you FORGIVE.
- Find a safe way to RECONNECT to the church.