

Loving Relationships

Loving relationships are the heart of a healthy, growing church. Jesus said people will know we are his disciples by our love. Practical demonstration of love builds authentic Christian community and brings others into God's kingdom.

Affirmation and encouragement

1. What evidence do we have that praise and compliments strongly influence the atmosphere of our church?
2. How have you been encouraged to openly praise and appreciate each other's contributions?
3. When and how is public recognition given?
4. How have we responded when people have 'failed' to achieve a goal?

Atmosphere of joy and acceptance

1. When and how often do we experience laughter at church gatherings?
2. What aspects of your involvement in church would you consider "fun"?
3. How do we care for people who have long-standing problems in their lives?
4. How accepting are we of people who are different than we are?

Deepening Relationships

1. What arenas do we have that encourage people to build relationships that are more than just casual acquaintances?
2. When and where are people encouraged to share deeply about joys and challenges in their life?
3. How do we help people resolve differences and rebuild a healthy relationship?
4. What training do we have that helps people grow in healthy relationships?

Conflict resolution

1. Where and when are we providing general guidance to our people about how to enter a conflict resolution process?
2. When two individuals in the church have faced conflict, what process was used to resolve it?
3. When the church has faced conflict that involved two or more groups of people, what process was used to resolve it?
4. Using an example of conflict resolution in our church's recent history, what steps did we take to face and deal with it in a healthy manner?

Recommended resources

- Access an expanded and in-depth coaching guide to discern the key issues for Need-Oriented Evangelism at: **CoachNet**: www.coachnet.org. Log in and type in QuickFind ID# GD9263.
- **Schwarz, Christian A. *The 3 Colors of Love***. (St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2004) ISBN 1-889638-45-5
- VanYperen, Jim. ***Making Peace***. (St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2001)