

*When we value a relationship, we will want to have it work. We want to live and relate to each other with dignity. The following points offer some Scriptural **guidelines for respecting feelings, privacy, confidentiality and opinions.** These will allow us to live and relate with dignity and respect.*

! **If I have a problem with**

**someone** (Mat. 18:15)

- " I will decide if it is worth making an "issue" of it
- " I will go directly to them and talk about it
- " I will speak with them privately
- " I will go at the earliest possible opportunity
- " I will not speak to others about the problem before I go
- " I will forgive them and drop the matter

! **If I know that someone is having**

**a problem with me** (Mat. 5:23-24)

- " I will go to them privately and see if we can work it out
- " I will not speak to others about the problem before I go
- " I will apologize if I have done wrong
- " I will ask them to forgive me for any offence that I have given

! **When someone comes to me when they are having a problem with me**

- " I will be kind to them (Eph 4:32)
- " I will not take offense (Mat 13:15)
- " I will not be angry with them (2 Cor 12:20, Eph 4:31, James 1:19-20)
- " I will try to hear their heart - not only their words
- " I will be humble and ask God to help me see their perspective
- " I will realize it may not be an issue to me, but it is to them
- " I will ask them to forgive me

! **If I have attempted to resolve a problem but have not been able**

(Mat. 18:15-17)

- " I will get some help from objective individuals that can help us work through it
- " I will realize that some situations cannot be resolved ("You cannot unscramble the eggs")
- " I will offer the only solution left:
  - I will apologize for any part I had in the matter
  - I will ask them to forgive me
- " I will drop the matter and carry no further offence

! **If someone comes to me about a problem they are having with another person** (Mat. 18:15-16)

- " I will wonder why they are telling me this
- " I will not listen to the details of what they are concerned about (Eph. 5:6-7, 1 Tim. 5:19)
- " I will send them to the person

they are having a problem with  
" I will offer to help them go to the person

! **If someone consistently will not go to the other person they are having a problem with** (Mt.18:15-16)

- " I will say, "Let's go together and talk this over with them"
- " I will not take sides
- " I will help to resolve the issue
- " I will not pick up the offences

! **If a matter seems unclear to me**

(Rom. 12:18, Eph. 4:2, Heb. 12:14)

- " I will be careful how I interpret the person's feelings or thoughts
- " I will not make a conclusion about another's motives or intentions without asking them
- " I will simply ask what they meant
- " I will believe what they told me
- " I will ask forgiveness & give forgiveness when needed (Mat.18:35)

! **If I am in doubt about what someone else meant by a comment, look or action** (Rom. 12:18, Eph. 4:2, Heb. 12:14)

- " I will believe the best about them
- " If it bothers me, I will speak directly with the person and ask about the comment, look, action
- " If I am unsatisfied with the explanation, I will forgive, drop the matter and relate (Mat.18:35)

! **If someone is quoting comments concerning me but will not name who the source is**

(Acts 23:35; 25:16,1 Tim 5:19, Deut. 19:15)

- " I will disregard the comments because they are unowned
- I cannot go to the person and attempt to resolve the problem
- " I will tell the one quoting the comments to send the person to me so we can work it out

! **If I receive an unsigned letter or note stating a concern or a complaint about me or another person**

(Acts 23:35; 25:16,1 Tim 5:19, Deut. 19:15)

- " I will not read it (unless I have asked for or agreed to receive such a note)
- " If I did read it, I will disregard it
- The person who wrote it does not feel strongly enough about it to identify themselves so it can be resolved
- " I will not worry about it
- I cannot go to the person who wrote it and resolve the concern. The note is simply an attempt to "accuse" and lay guilt - not work the situation out

! **If someone comes to me in confidence to share about a personal matter (not about a problem with someone else)**

- " I will not speak to others about what is shared (Prov. 11:13; 25:9) (See Note1)

! **If I am invited into some relationships that directly or indirectly manipulate other people**

- " I will not be part of hidden agendas & unspoken expectations (Prov.1:10-16;16:27-29)
- " I will be forthright & "above board" in all my dealings with others

! **I will be aware of the personal boundaries of others and seek to respect them as much as I am able**

! **There may be other situations that arise. God has direction for us in these matters. I will ask the Pastor for help in those areas.**

- Contact:



(306) 668 - 8463

[harvest@sasktel.net](mailto:harvest@sasktel.net)

[www.harvestsaskatoon.com](http://www.harvestsaskatoon.com)

Note 1 - We must keep confidences unless:

- They are going to harm themselves
- They are going to physically harm someone else
- A child has been or will be physically or sexually abused

\*\* Adapted and expanded from material written by Ralph Howe

## **"Show Proper Respect To Everyone"**

1 Peter 2:17



*Practical Help  
For All Of Our  
Relationships*

