

Jon and Joy Ericson

Addressing sin

Divisiveness

Scripture:

Romans 16:17 – “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.”

Titus 3:10 – “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him”

Incidents:

- nature of contacting Several church members
- witness of character defamation of Brian Chan at a book club that Jon attends
- Emails that have content that is accusatory where much of the content is assumed and inaccurate information

Malice

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:25-26 – “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil.”

Colossians 3:8 – “But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.”

Incidents: sending attacking emails against Brian and the elders without context and vast assumptions (Jon) “I see now that the elders of the church do not have the stomach for it. As a church, we trust in our wealth of talent, assets and giving units rather than trusting in Christ.”

Slander

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1 – “So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.”

Incidents: Email content about the elders (Joy) “You have made an idol of unity and fellowship among yourselves and turned a blind eye to the hurt and isolation being experienced by those you have been charged with shepherding, and then blamed us for your failings.”

Words of encouragement towards restoration and healing

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

The Instruction here is to refrain from having unhealthy conversations with other church members where the topic is about others with no movement towards a direct and Christ-centered conversation with the parties involved.

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.