**Eldership Authority and Issue Collaboration Framework**

* How does this church ensure it is shepherded with humility and accountability?
* Are there unresolved fractures in our history or relationships that need healing?
* What safeguards are in place to protect our fellowship from personality-driven division?

**Non-Trivial Situation Analysis and Resolution**

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| **Situation** | * Describe the situation. |
| **Problems** | * What are the specific problems? |
| **Implications** | * Per problem, what implications infer? What risks may occur? |
| **Needs Analysis** | * Develop a checklist of action items to resolve the situation. Identify RACI assignments, prioritization, scheduling, and resources. |
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| **Status** | * New, Open, Assigned, Closed, Ignored, Monitor |
| **Priority** | * High, Medium, Low |
| **Timeframe** | * Start, End, or Timeframe |
| **Confidentiality** | * Private, Need-2-Know, Congregational, Public |
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| **Responsible** | * Elders Only |
| **Accountable** | * Assigned Deacons, Ministers, Staff, Members, Groups |
| **Consulted** | * Assigned Subject Matter Experts, Members, Groups |
| **Informed** | * Assigned Members, Groups, Public |

**Foundational Pillars of Fellowship (from Acts 2)**

* **Devotion** – Persistent commitment to spiritual practices (v. 42)
* **Presence** – Sharing meals, time, and space (v. 46)
* **Generosity** – Meeting needs with glad and sincere hearts (v. 45)
* **Unity** – Having “all things in common” (v. 44)
* **Worship and Praise** – A rhythm of collective joy and awe (v. 47)

**Covenant vs. Convenience**

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| **Faithful Fellowship** | **Broken Fellowship** |
| Devotion to teaching & prayer | Disregard for spiritual leadership |
| Mutual generosity & care | Greed, deception, or jealousy |
| Humility & submission | Pride, control, or self-centeredness |
| Christ-centered unity | Factionalism and party spirit |
| Joyful praise and awe | Complaint, rebellion, idolatry |

**Covenant Fellowship**

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| **Challenge** | **Restorative Practice** |
| **Doctrinal Division** | Focus on core gospel truths and apostolic simplicity |
| **Sectarian Identity** | Declare themselves “Christians only, not the *only* Christians” |
| **Leadership Conflicts** | Emphasize shared authority through elders |
| **Tradition vs. Scripture** | Hold the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice |
| **Disconnected Congregations** | Create networks of mutual fellowship based on shared mission |

**Key Elements of Successful Restoration**

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| **Element** | **Description** |
| **Humility** | Willingness to admit wrong and seek peace (James 4:6) |
| **Repentance** | Turning away from sin and back to God and community (Acts 3:19) |
| **Forgiveness** | Freely extended and received (Colossians 3:13) |
| **Christ-Centered Focus** | Moving from human agenda to shared identity in Christ (Ephesians 2:14–16) |
| **Truth and Transparency** | Open acknowledgment of division, with a pursuit of doctrinal clarity (Ephesians 4:15) |
| **Shared Prayer and Worship** | Spiritual intimacy that rebuilds relational trust (Acts 1:14, 2:42) |
| **Missional Purpose** | Restored fellowship often leads to renewed gospel engagement (Philippians 1:5) |
| **Biblical Authority** | Restoration begins when Scripture—not personality—guides decisions |
| **Plural Leadership** | Elder plurality prevents leader-idolatry and checks power |
| **Public Repentance** | Honest admission of sin builds trust (e.g., leadership letters, apologies) |
| **Persistent Prayer** | Unity cannot be manufactured—it must be Spirit-empowered |
| **Focused Mission** | Churches must re-center on Christ and the gospel, not institutional survival |
| **Forgiveness & Patience** | Lasting restoration requires ongoing grace, not instant solutions |

**Readings and References**

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| **Matthew 5:21-26** | “…First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.” |
| **1 John 3:10-21** | “…the one who does not love his fellow Christian is not of God.” |
| **Romans 5:6-11** | “…For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God… through whom we have now received this reconciliation.” |
| **Others…** | **1 John 2:9-11, 1 John 4:17 – 5:4, Matthew 22:39, Colossians 3:13, 1 Peter 3:8-12, Mark 11:25-26, Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-35, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Colossians 1:19-20** |