

## Statement on Biblical Relationship

(This is a draft from Jan. 30, 2010 in response to the call for it in “The Path Forward” by Pastor Jeff Bogue. The original intent was for its inclusion in a revised FGBC Constitution. This was never agreed upon by Fellowship Council, nor included in the Constitution process.)

1st person plural, brief, 200-250 words

Our commitment to biblical truth compels us to pursue biblical relationship with one another, obeying Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17; Romans 12:10-18, 15:5-6; Eph. 4:3; Heb. 13:17.

- Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”
- Matthew 18:15-17 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”
- Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
- Romans 12:14-16 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”
- Romans 12:18 “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
- Romans 15:5-6 “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Ephesians 4:3 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
- Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Our commitment to live out these principles means that we covenant with each other to:

- Seek reconciliation whenever a broken relationship is brought to my attention, either by the Holy Spirit or by another brother or sister.

- Speak directly and privately with a brother or sister with whom I have a disagreement, seeking to resolve our differences.
- Refrain from speaking disparagingly against, gossiping about, or encouraging dissatisfaction with any brother or sister in Christ,
- Respect, encourage, and honor those in positions of spiritual leadership.
- Be considerate and kind to brothers and sisters in Christ who attend other churches, even those with whom we differ theologically.

461 words total, including biblical texts

135 words if texts are excluded

This statement to be vetted with:

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Charles Ashman (Paraclete Ministry)

Tom Julien

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Dave Guiles (?)

Tim Boal

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Keep in the loop:

Tom Hocking

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When ready for distribution, consult with Nathan Bryant and Doug Black.