



Be a Peacemaker.
Transform Your Relationships.™



Bringing Relational Wisdom Into Your Church

Relational Wisdom® 360

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BRINGING RELATIONAL WISDOM® INTO CHURCH

Get upstream of conflict and equip members with relational skills that build unity, prevent conflict, strengthen marriages and develop a Christian witness that draws others to Jesus and your church.

PDF AT RW360.ORG/SA-CHURCH

DAILY RELATIONAL CHALLENGES

Churches shepherd people and serve communities with hope and care. Although most ministry interactions are encouraging, some interactions can lead to exhausting relational challenges:

- Leadership tensions and divisions
- Elder/staff misalignment or siloed teams
- Doctrinal and cultural controversies
- Small group conflicts and pastoral care overload
- Marriage, family and parenting tensions
- Social media controversies and gossip cycles
- Compassion fatigue and pastoral burnout
- Forced pastoral exits that split churches

TRANSFORM YOUR CHURCH

As you strengthen your congregation's relational skills, you can build a fellowship that is characterized by unity, wisdom and a compelling witness. Relational wisdom enables you to:

- Build a solidly united and supportive leadership team
- Shepherd members with humility, empathy and wisdom
- Teach members to resolve conflicts personally and privately
- Equip small group leaders as peacemakers and mediators
- Unify elders and staff around shared values and mission
- Train a Peace Sower team that shares your peacemaking load and enables you to spend more time with your family
- Strengthen members' ability to build an appealing witness
- Use relational wisdom to spread the gospel in your community

SUPPORTING STUDIES

Multiple studies reveal the value of relational skills training in Missions.

1. [Strike the Shepherd](#)
2. [Emotional Intelligence for Church and Ministry](#)
3. [Relational Wisdom Strengthen Both Families and Businesses](#)

SET AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE AS A RELATIONAL LEADER

In 1 Timothy 4:15, the Apostle Paul gave his young protégé some life changing advice: *“Practice these things, immerse yourselves in them so that all may see your progress.”*

Modeling is the most effective way to teach relational skills and to set the stage for sharing the gospel (1 Cor. 11:1; John 13:35). As Paul teaches Timothy, the best way to become a good model is to “practice these things and immerse yourself in them.”

Here are some practical ways that you and your leadership team can do this:

1. [Model humility, teachability and flexibility](#) (Phil. 2:3-4).
2. Realize that [sin can turn strengths into weaknesses](#) (1 Cor. 8:1).
3. Guard against [the seductiveness of power and its potential for abuse](#); (see [Power Causes Brain Damage](#) and [Psychology of Power](#); contrast with [Reagan, Lincoln, RW and You](#), [Lincoln’s Relational Wisdom](#) and [Nelson Mandela](#)).
4. Become [skilled peacemakers](#) and [conciliators](#) who [model confession](#) and inspire the “[Golden Result](#)” (Matt. 5:9; James 3:18; Matt. 7:12).
5. [Always bring the gospel to your people](#) (Rom. 5:1-11).
6. Develop and model [empathy and compassion](#) (Col. 3:12).
7. Show how to [redeem an offense](#) (Prov. 15:1).
8. Show your people how [political strife creates opportunities](#) (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1).
9. Use [gentle shepherding](#) and [loving discipline to restore lost sheep](#).
10. Be both [approachable](#) and [accountable](#) (Luke 7:37-38; Matt. 8:9).
11. Constantly [build passport](#) (John 4:7-30).
12. Always provide the [Three P’s of Satisfaction](#) (1 Cor. 14:40; Matt. 7:120).
13. Show how to practice [clarity plus charity](#) (Matt. 7:12).
14. Learn how to [defuse explosive meetings](#) (Matt. 7:3-5).
15. Show that there is [a better way to handle](#) abuse (Prov. 28:13).
16. Show how to apply RW in every challenge of life, including [cancer](#).

A STRATEGY FOR CHURCH GROWTH

1. Remember the high cost of conflict to the church, families and communities, and most of all, to our witness for Christ.
2. To paraphrase 1 Timothy 3:1 - Whoever aspires to be a relational hero desires a noble task and can change many lives! These [real-life examples](#) show how God could work through you to bring peace in seemingly impossible situations.
3. Pray for guidance.
4. Develop a plan for personal and organizational growth ([Download template here](#))
5. Start with yourself; practice these things, set an example (1 Tim. 4:15).
 - Download free resources ([RW App](#), [RW Blog](#), [Guiding People Through Conflict](#)).
 - Foundational training ([Discovering Relational Wisdom](#), [Relational Peacemaking](#)).
 - [RW Shepherd Certificate](#)
 - [Advanced Training and Certification](#)
6. Use relevant training resources to disciple your current leadership team and to screen and train new leaders.
7. Use this 70-page ebooklet, [Guiding People Through Conflict](#), to learn the basic principles of conflict coaching, mediation and arbitration.
8. Build a [Peace Sower Team](#) to share training, coaching and peacemaking responsibilities (Exod. 18:22-23).
9. Use *faith-based* relational wisdom and peacemaking [group study sets](#) for Sunday school, group studies and professional staff development.
10. Use [Relational Commitments](#) to clarify and obtain informed consent to your pastoral policies and practices, which can reduce misunderstandings, conflict and exposure to legal liability.
11. Use PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) resources to spread the gospel in your community (see [Using RW for Outreach, Evangelism and Church Growth](#), [PACE Program](#), [PACE FAQs](#), [RW Strengthens Both Families and Businesses](#); [PACE Instructor Training](#)).

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