



“Then Herod...was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts...” (Matt. 2:16)

Dealing with Difficult People

Many Types



The Volcano



Bubble Burster



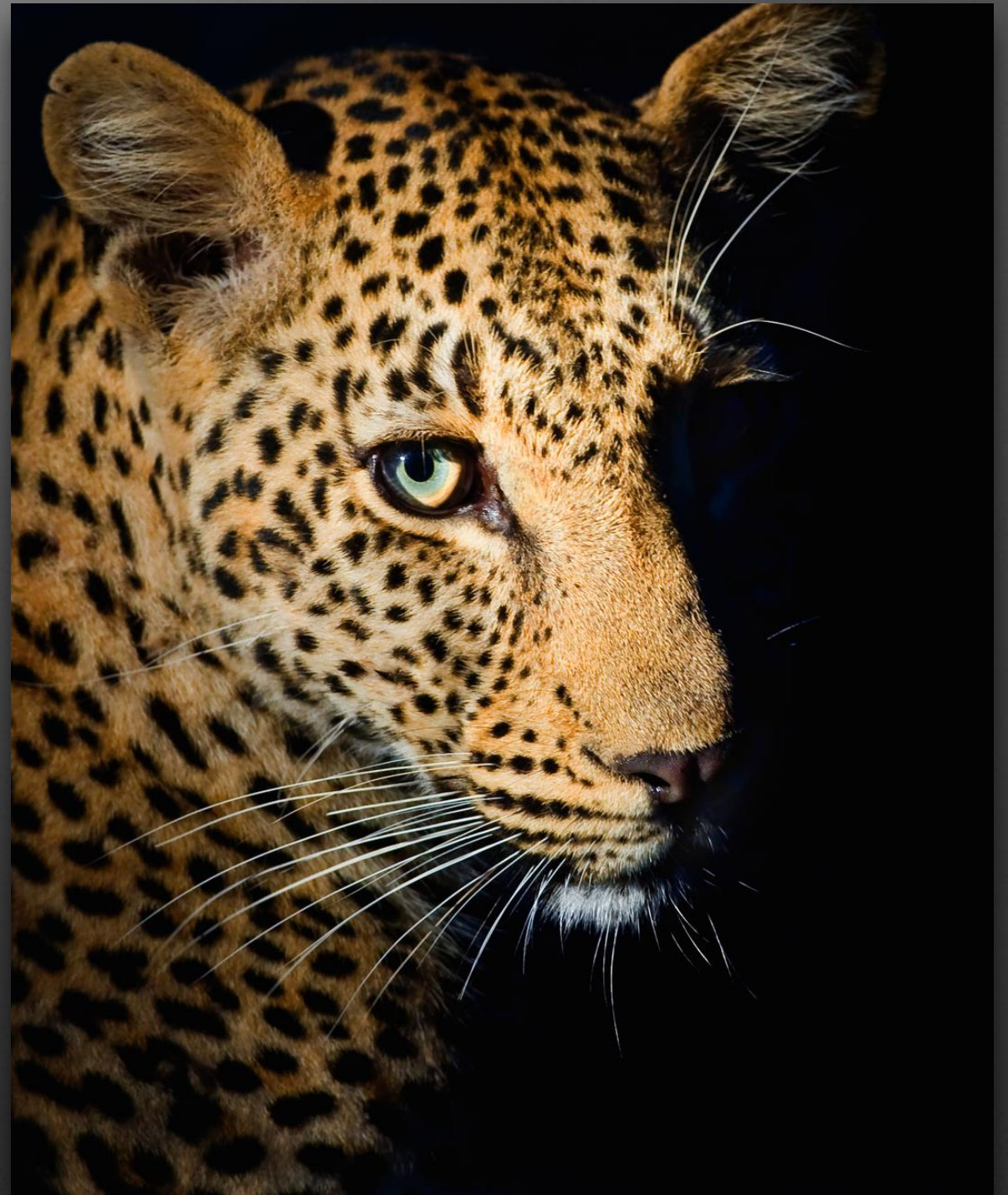
Unpleasable Perfectionist



Chronic Complainer

1. Speak the truth in love and respect

- Eph. 4:14-15 — “...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...”
- Prov. 15:1 — “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- Col. 4:6 — “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”



2. Reconciliation (3 Steps)

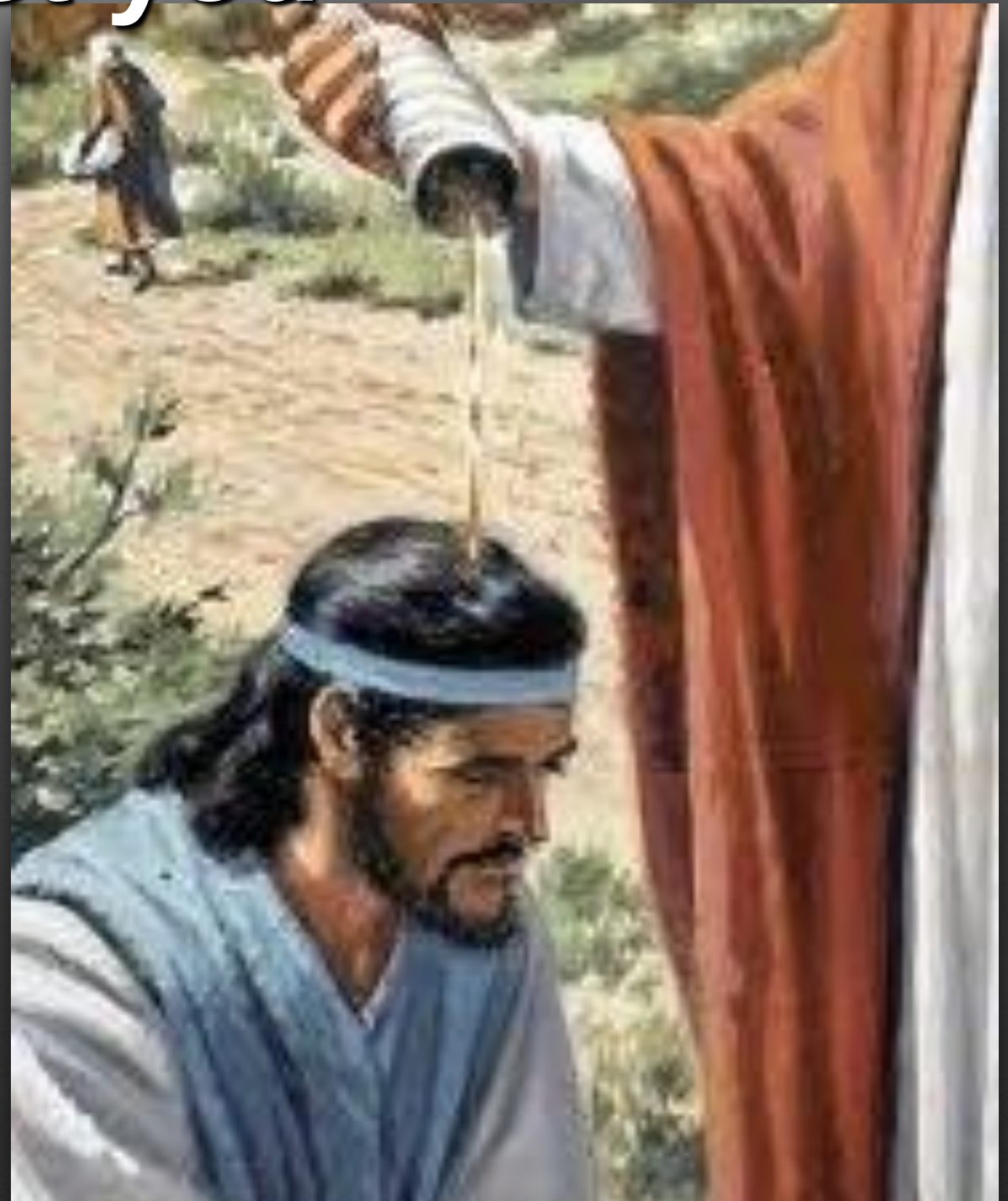
- Matt. 18:15-17 - “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and **tell him his fault between you and him alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, **take with you one or two more**, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, **tell it to the church**. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”
- Step 1: Private correction
 - *“You must conduct your judgment of him privately. **Make your cure easy to accept**. For the words ‘correct him’ mean nothing other than help him see his indiscretion. Tell him **what you have suffered** from him. – St. John Chrysostom*

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- Step 2: Seek a counselor/advisor
- Step 3: Tell it to the church

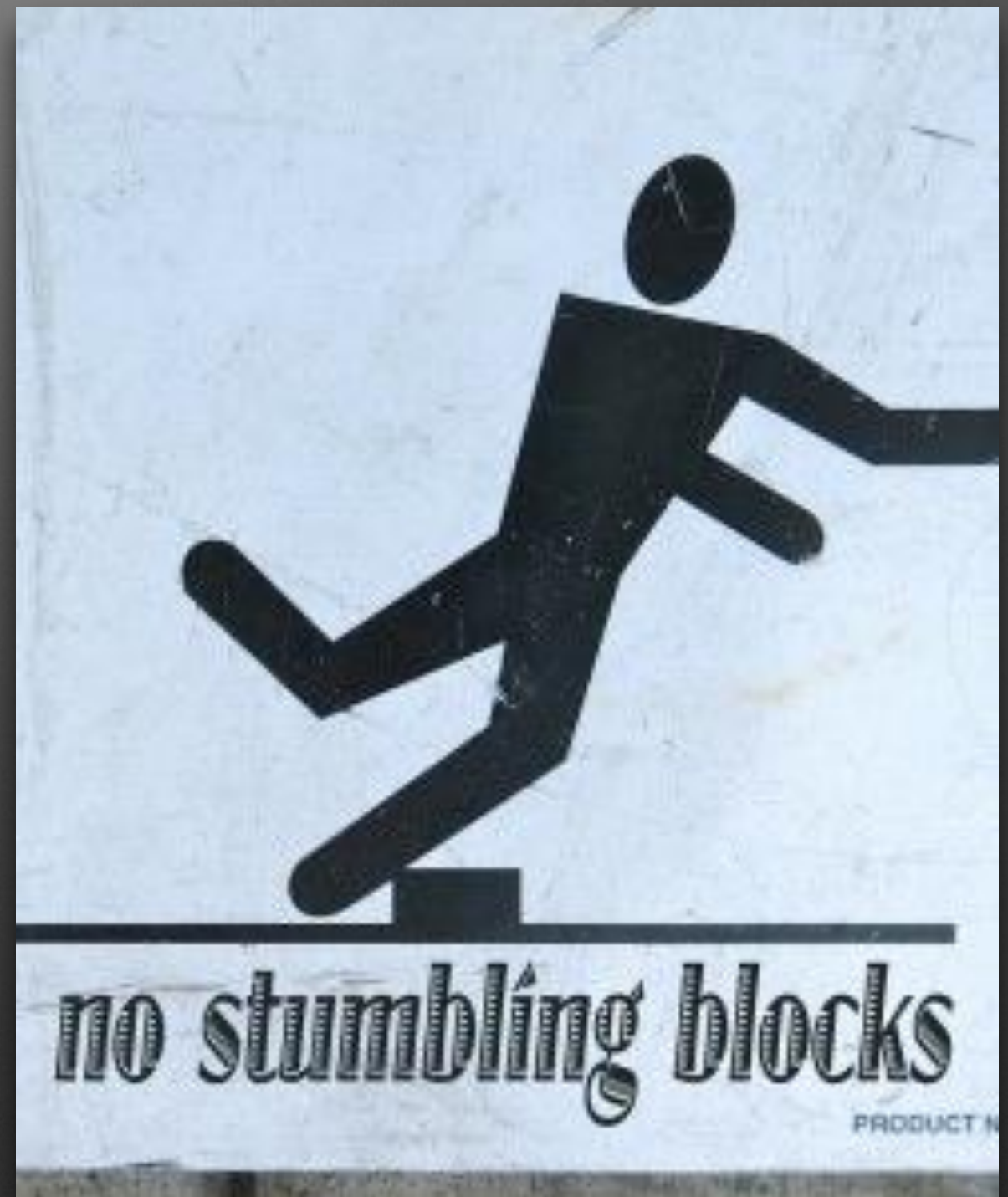
3. Realize that their anger/arguments may not be against you

- 1 Sam. 8:7 — “And the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; **for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me**, that I should not reign over them.’”



4. Remember to whom we are accountable

- Rom. 14:12-13 — “So then each of us shall **give account of himself to God**. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block** or a cause to fall in our brother's way.”



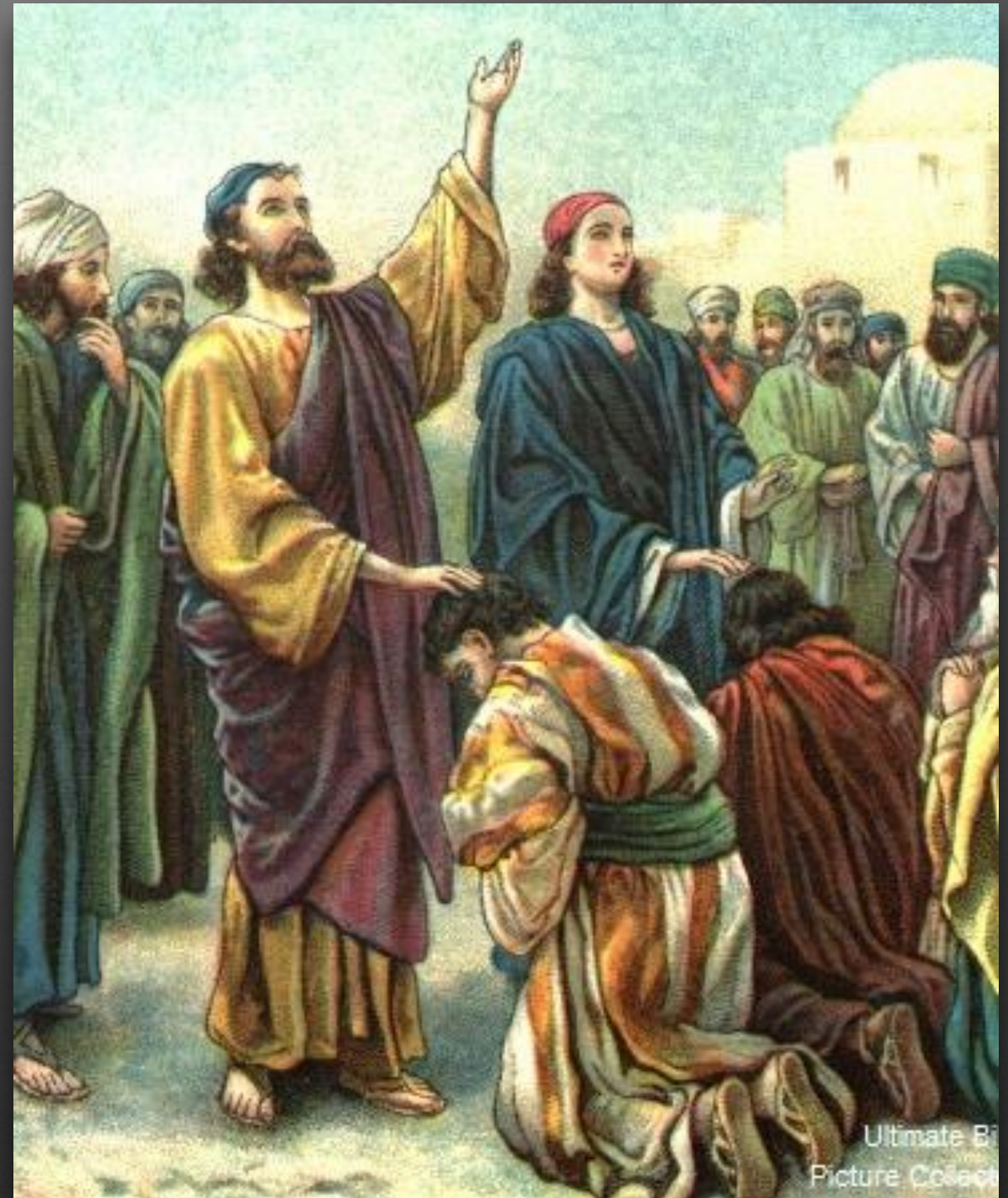
5. Walk away

- 1 Sam. 24:10 — “Look, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.’”
- When to walk way?
 - When two people are no longer communicating with love, clarity, or rationale



6. Sometimes you must agree to disagree

- Acts 15:37-40 – “Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. **Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another.** And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”
- 2 Tim. 4:11 – “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”



7. Pray for them

- Matt. 5:44 – “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...”



Summary

- Speak the truth in love and respect
- 3 Steps of Reconciliation
 1. Private correction
 2. Seek a counselor
 3. Take it to the church
- Realize that their anger/arguments may not be against you
- Remember to whom we are accountable
- Walk away
- Sometimes you must agree to disagree
- Pray for them