

Solving Problems In Your BYSW Congregation Without Creating New Ones

These are general principles and actions may have to vary

- Find locate and isolate the source, or root of the problem. Look for the power broker/s behind the issue. Problems enter via people not by a jet airliner. Explain.
- Confront the root, or source of the problem. You cannot conduct congregational ministry without having to confront on some occasions. Your mentality must always be I have to locate and confront the bully. When the bully is silenced, all the others that are with you will fall into line. Explain.
- Isolate the problem and the person, or persons causing the problems. If multiple people are involved isolate the persons most responsible for causing the problems. Then decide on the actions needing to be taken. The most effective way and the only biblical way to handle a problem maker is to use the Torah and Renewed Covenant principle of putting “outside the camp.” This brings immediate isolation and gives you some room to repair things until the problem is either solved, or is quarantined. You need to shepherd your flock in such a manner as does virus software when it ISOLATES and then REMOVES your computer virus. If we fail to find the sources, confront them, isolate them and then remove them, you can never serve your flock as a shepherd. What does the shepherd do to protect the sheep? He uses his staff against both the wolf and the other sheep to protect the sheep and keep them walking in order. Explain.
- Never ignore the issues causing division, or problems as they won’t go away. Ignoring an issue, or problem hoping it will go away merely brings a high probability that the only thing going away is your sanity and your congregation. By isolating and removing problem makers from the camp you are assuring that things do not spread. When we say problem makers, we are speaking of people who are threatening the stability and spiritual health of the entire congregation, not a person who is normally well disposed. Explain.
- Our primary motivation in isolating the root causes and peoples is to care for the remainder of the flock. Our love for them must be our primary motivation for any action taken. Not numbers, not tithers, not the most helpful not the most useful. Love and justice must be our primary motivation even if it causes temporary pain and temporary loss. Even if others don’t understand your actions. What kind of result is Yahshua looking for? Pray and seek His face, not to avoid taking action, but to know what action to take! Then determine to love, nurture and protect the remaining sheep by isolating the problem makers, for it is better for one or two to be placed outside the camp, then for the entire congregation to perish. Explain.
- Usually by the time you as a busy and engaged leader discover that there’s a spreading and brewing problem, you’re seeing the back end. The fire started a long time ago, either under your nose, or behind your back and usually the rabbi, or leader is the last to know the full details about a situation. Never allow others to pressure you into making decisions based on emotion, convenience, threats, or MANIPULATION. That’s a biggie. In any crisis, people in the congregation who are, or may be aware of a crisis, will in subtle and some in not so subtle ways begin to manipulate you to make decisions and take actions, or refrain from actions based on their agenda. NEVER allow anyone to manipulate you. You can avoid manipulation, or being manipulated by influencers/power brokers in the assembly, if your motivation is to love, protect, nurture, guard and lay down your life for the INNOCENT sheep who have been

accused, caught up, or infected by the problem makers. If you lose everything, you lose everything, but at least you sought righteousness and equity and did not allow yourself to become a victim of manipulation. Seek Torah justice not easy solutions that leave all the key players and problems in place. Remember problems don't fly in like mosquitoes. They enter and go with people. Explain.

- Realize that YHWH ALLOWS divisions like in the case of Barnabas and Rav Shaul to further His kingdom, or to send and move people out in different directions, or to shake people out of their comfort zones. Don't assume that a split, or division is bad and from the devil. It may be YHWH's way of removing leavened power bases within the congregation, manipulative people, or other manifestations of s.a.tan, mostly taking place behind your back. Without a split between Barnabas and Paul, Silas and Mark would never have had an opportunity to serve Yahshua. Often times YHWH allows a crisis to come to your attention to reestablish your authority in the congregation, because unbeknownst to you, there were little spheres of influence that were beginning to control things that would undermine your leadership. Explain.
- You'll discover that when you confront, isolate and remove the problem makers, that all the others who had joined, or were under the influence of the power broker will ALL come to the light and willingly REMOVE THEMSELVES WITH THE POWER BROKER. They will amazingly and often suddenly turn their back and no longer trust you, because you exposed the power broker. This is allowed by YHWH to protect you and show you that perhaps there was a congregation within a congregation. You can safely assume that in any group that functions for any period of time, a power base has developed outside and against your authority. (This is why the president is constantly reshaping his cabinet of key players.) YHWH will reveal all those under this foreign influence and once you confront the power/problem broker/s ALL others under the influence will emerge into the light and follow them by removing themselves, or declaring their own intentions to follow the problem maker and not the order you have been called to keep. You'll discover where their true loyalty lies. Explain.

Remember the steps to solving issues without creating new ones. Confront, isolate, remove the problem. Be motivated not by revenge, but only by what's best for the remainder of the flock. It's not a matter of being nice, or mean. It's a matter of doing your job of GUARDING the flock, even as Yahshua has called you to do. If you run away from this process and duty you and I are merely hirelings who run when wolves are exposed. And remember the wolf approaches from 2 directions. Without and within the flock. Be aware that the next move of the enemy will most likely be from within the camp and from a trusted power broker or influencer. One other way to protect, or possibly preempt such problems is to demote, shuffle, or remove authority from people who have had it too long. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. It may be good to CHANGE elders, or assistants every few years, as they serve YHWH and are not there to amass a following, or a sphere of influence. I have had to learn this myself recently. As the called leader only YHWH can remove you! Don't get depressed and remove yourself. That's what the enemy wants! Sheep without a shepherd.

Read and explain John 13:1-38-This is Yahshua in action. We see Yahshua confronting, exposing, isolating and taking immediate action. Once this occurs, He tells the remaining flock to love one another. Why? Because love can be manifested only among the "clean in heart" remnant, but not with the power broker Yahudah/Judas still at the table. -20 minutes questions and answers-