

go and show him his fault, just between the two of you."

The verb translated "tell" is the aorist imperative of ἐλέγχω. In an article in The Theological Dictionary of New Testament, Fredrich Buchsel points out that while the use of the term in classical literature is complex (can mean to scorn, bring to contempt, shame, blame, expose, to investigate), in the New Testament its meaning is restricted. "It means 'to show someone his sin and to summon him to repentance,'"¹ In this case, the offended party or one aware of the offense takes the initiative in acknowledging the fault.

Such a confrontation is necessary when the offender refuses to make the first move. Ideally, in a ministerial team, the acknowledgement would come from either the offender or the offended at the onset of the problem. There should be the kind of atmosphere wherein problems and potential problems could be discussed freely without intimidation or sanction. This point is made in the discussion of conflict prevention but is repeated here for obvious reasons.

Among the respondents to the survey, there were a number who were involved in conflict situations. In each case, the failure to acknowledge the problem was a necessary component of the conflict. In answer to the question, "How does your team resolve conflicts when they arise?", the following replies were given by those team members involved in teams that handled conflict poorly:

¹The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament s.v. ἐλέγχω by Fredrich Buchsel, vol. 2, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmann Pub. Co., 1964), pp. 473-474.