

Everyone who is aware of the problem must be considered in working out a solution.

In the situation referred to earlier involving the dishonest Director of Christian Education, the church board attempted to contain the problem within the ruling body of the church. These men promised the man who was forced to resign his position, that not a word of the reasons behind his resignation would be made known to the people. This was very unwise because the people interpreted the man's action as being caused by his conflict with the senior pastor. As a result, many fault the pastor and defend the man who resigned. The facts would vindicate the pastor, but the board has pledged to keep this a secret. This is no way to contain the problem; it has had an effect similar to pouring oil on a fire. If a man called by a congregation resigns under duress, the congregation deserves an explanation.

3. Cooling

It may not appear so at first, but Joshua did deal with the misunderstood party in love. He could have ordered an immediate attack and a calamitous situation would have developed. Instead, he sent a delegation led by Phinehas, including a prince from each of the ten tribes to confront the leaders of the two and one-half tribes.

The cooling process in this case was one of coming to understanding of what the true situation was. It was to be sure, an emotion charged situation that would have exploded if the two parties had not taken time to talk things out. Though he completely misunderstood the true situation, the speech Phinehas gave evidences both restraint and love