



First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church

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Title: _____ **Horizontal Agreement** _____

Series: THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

Text: Matthew 18:18-20

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022



Thematic Focus Scripture: Matthew 18:18-20

¹⁸“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

¹⁹“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

²⁰“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

I. Agreement comes in three perspectives:

- Vertical – Agreement with God
- Inner – Agreement with self
- Horizontal – Agreement with others

The foundation has been laid that agreement is the joining of the natural and the spiritual (for where two or three are gathered together in my name...).

II. Horizontal Agreement is a challenge on many fronts.

- There must be a connection with others.
- The connection must be rooted in a strong foundation.
- There must be pillar/columns to support the weight of the connection with others.
- Each pillar/column must be developed personally.

III. The Foundational Pillars/Columns:

1. Self-concept
2. Trust/Forgiveness
3. Core Belief/Value System
4. Language Activity

IV. Today, our assignment is to focus on:
Trust and Forgiveness.

Matthew 18:18-20

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, ... “

The emphasis is on the word AGAIN.

The primary point of Agreement was rooted in human relationships.

V. Biblical Foundation

The disciples had problems with fully understanding the importance of connectivity:

Matthew 15:32

“Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, **I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.**”

Chapter 16, Jesus revealed His assignment to the disciples: suffer many things of the elders and chief priest and the scribes and be killed and be raised again on the 3rd day.

Chapter 17, the disciples’ inability to heal the certain man’s son of lunacy.

Chapter 18, the disciples asked Jesus, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus called a little child unto Him and set him in the midst of the disciples. Jesus said, “...Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (verse 3)

Jesus began to minister on offending one of His little ones and the consequences.

Verse 15

“**Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.**”

Verse 16

“But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”

Verse 17

“And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

Verse 18

“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Verse 19

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

Verse 20

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Verse 21

“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?”

Peter got his answer from **Proverbs 24:16**

“For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

The struggle continued in Chapter 19 with the subject of divorce.

VI. The Second Pillar/Column of **Trust and Forgiveness** must be emphasized.

Questions:

➤ Is trust given to people or is trust earned by people?

If trust is given, then the person giving the trust can be set-up for:

- Abuse by others.
- Recklessness by others.
- Caring and needless pains caused by others.

If trust is earned, then the person who requires that it be earned can:

- be in a manipulative posture and keep moving the bar higher and higher.
- or the persons have great insecurities, and nothing will satisfy them.

Trust is built by giving and earning it.

➤ Why is trust so important?

There is a strong connection between trust and forgiveness.

YOU CANNOT BE FORGIVEN BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO TRUST!!!

Find someone who has forgiving issues, and you will also find someone who has trust issues.

The Trust issues could be:

- They don't trust others.
- They don't trust themselves.
- Or both.

Jesus taught at the end of chapter 18 and in the prayer that He gave to His disciples:

Forgive others so that you can be forgiven of your sins. The end of **Chapter 18 verse 35**:

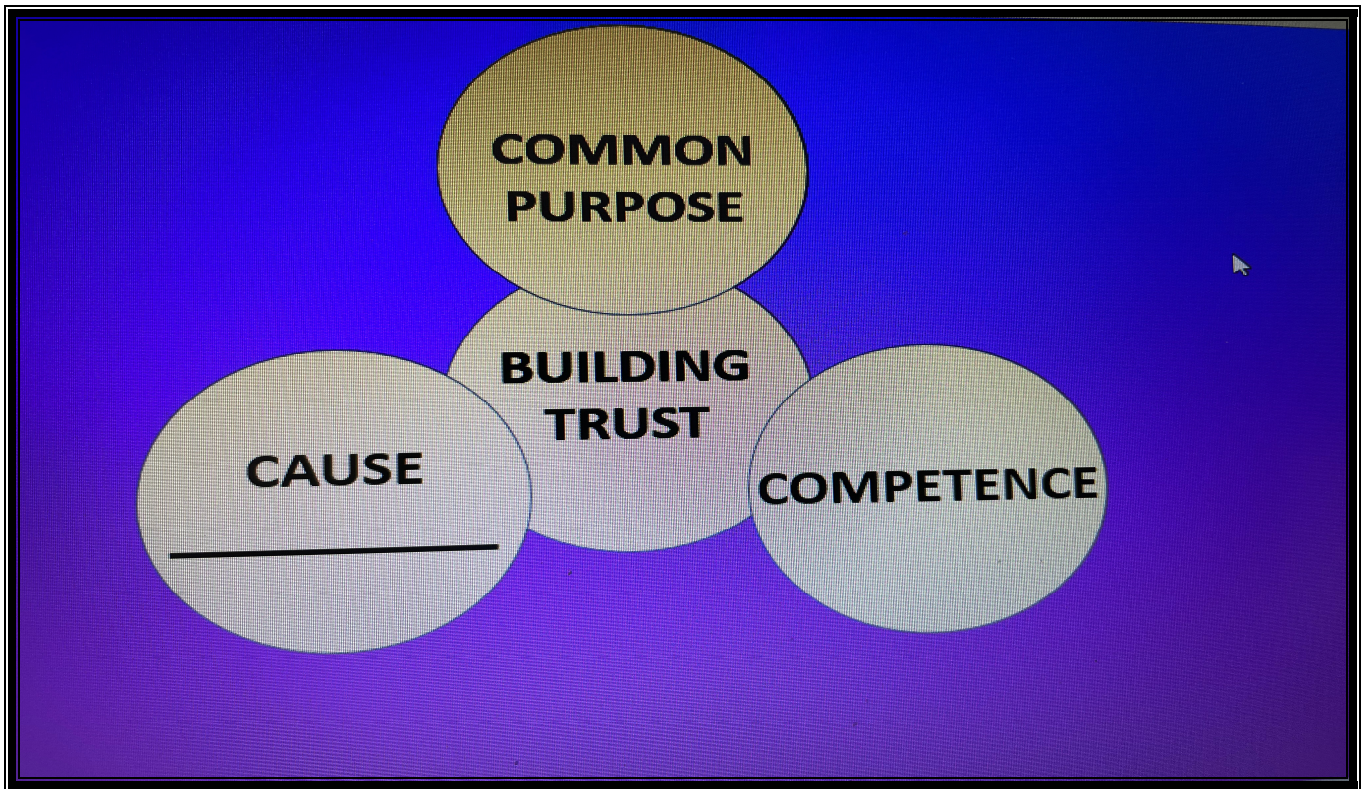
“So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

➤ What is trust?

Trust is placing confidence in or relying on ...

Building Trust is made up a at least 3 major components:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



1. Common Purpose - Integrity

What is the nature of the relationship?

2. Competence - Ability

Competency deals with the ability to do something successfully or efficiently.

When I think about competence, I think about capacity.

Capacity on two levels:

- Others
- Self

True competency brings about transparency.

3. Cause: Motives

What is in the relationship for each person?

Your relationships will fall into the following categories:

- a. Messianic
- b. Mutual
- c. "John The Baptist"
- d. Teacher/ Student
- e. Situationship