

# Go to Your Brother

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The elders believe that the Karns congregation is a wonderful Christian family. We strive to support and love one another. Our compassion is on display a number of times on any given day. We are kindly affectionate to one another (Romans 12:10) most of the time.

Just like our earthly families, however, sometime we have disagreements and contention amongst ourselves. These contentions tend to work themselves out for the good of the church. Sometimes, though, they lead to hard feelings and even to a family leaving the congregation. Many times the offending party is not even aware that they have caused a problem. Families leave for a variety of reasons but often do not let someone know that they are unhappy or dissatisfied.

Jesus had plenty to say about this but it can be boiled down to “Go to your brother.” If your brother has something against you, be reconciled to him (paraphrase of Matt 5:23-24). If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them (Luke 17:3). In Matthew 18:15 Jesus said, “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.” Jesus was clear that we need to go to our brother (or sister) and work things out. Letting problems fester until the situation is unbearable is not the proper way to handle issues between brethren.

When approaching a brother or sister about an issue remember Romans 12:10 – “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.” This will help to ensure that the situation is resolved in a loving, Christian manner.

The elders encourage you to come to us if we have done something to anger or upset you. We want to resolve any issues that impact the spiritual health of the congregation. Likewise, you should encourage others to do the same if you unknowingly cause contention. The result will be a stronger Christian family.

The elders love you and pray for you continually.

For the elders,  
Tony Turner