

True Stories: Taming the Wolf Pack

A brief story about the power of God's Word to change the direction of a group that is quickly going astray:

My wife and I were attending a holiday celebration of a Christian fellowship group. The gathering also included a business meeting. During the course of the meeting, an individual expressed some misgivings about the work of the youth director at the church in a completely inappropriate way. Soon others joined in the criticism -- a wolf pack mentality had set in and was gaining momentum.

Catching the leader's attention, I offered the opinion that we should be observant of Jesus' admonitions contained in Matthew 18:15, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." I asked those who had expressed criticism of the youth director to seek him out individually and privately.

The atmosphere in the room changed abruptly as the Holy Spirit spoke to the hearts of those gathered in that place. The carping stopped immediately, and the meeting went on to a successful and peaceful conclusion.

Praise God for His mighty Word!

From the Peacemaker Ministries website, www.peacemaker.net; anonymous.

Discussion:

1. Have you ever been involved in a [church] meeting where such a discussion occurred?
2. Did anyone make a similar call to biblical confrontation? How might the meeting differ, if someone had?
3. What is our role as church leaders, in such a situation?
4. How do our Peacemaking Church studies, principles, and resources prepare us and help us for our role?

Discussion questions by Pastor Dave Buchanan, Pastor & Teacher, FCC Boylston.