

“...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF CHURCHES WITH MOSTLY IMMIGRANT PEOPLE, WHO ARE REACHING THE WORLD!”

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

SIBLING RIVALRY

Do you understand what I mean by “sibling rivalry? I imagine most of you understand this English idea, but if you don’t, here’s an explanation: Siblings are brothers and sisters. Rivalry means competition, where one party wants to beat the other. Sibling rivalry is when children of the same family compete or fight among each



other. Sibling rivalry can happen in an actual family, and it happens in the Church, between brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Recently, a friend who was a convert from Islam ten years ago, told me that he held back

from giving his life to Jesus for several months because he saw much too division among Christians and churches. He said that in his African country the Muslims seemed unified compared to Christians. So, for several months, he was no longer a Muslim, but he was not ready to receive Jesus as his Savior and Lord. It makes me sad

that he held back on receiving Jesus because of sibling rivalry.

Sometimes we are part of different churches or denominations

because we have different understandings of doctrines like baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Sometimes different churches are started because a different worship style is needed to reach younger people. Sometimes, different

Strategic Planning for Achieving Goals is our newest ministry. We help former refugees and immigrants navigate complicated American systems such as higher education, funding education, and immigration status. This is so they can achieve their goals aligned with God’s calling on their lives. If you believe this would be helpful for people in your church or community, please let them know about us!

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churches are started because of language or culture. These can be fine reasons for →→

having additional churches, and usually the relationships are not negative and divisive.

And, I understand that sometimes a division occurs because bad teaching is being done by a church or a group. However, I hope this only happens after gently, clearly, and prayerfully challenging a brother or sister in Jesus. If a division occurs, I hope we continue to pray for the other, and wish the best for them, our Christian sibling.

In contrast, sibling rivalry among Christians and churches is when they are competing, fighting, dividing, and not praying for each other.

My friends, the world desperately needs the Gospel. God has given us pastors and churches the responsibility to share the Gospel and help grow His family. What an awesome responsibility!

If the planting of new churches is happening, let's be sure it is more because of multiplication and less because of division. I understand that can be complicated—not easy. I hear of divisions occurring between my good brothers in Christ, because they are feeling hurt and disrespected, or because of what seem to be fine reasons. Please at least approach every situation with humbleness, with grace, with prayer, and with a desire for unity and reconciliation. This follows the Holy Spirit's and Jesus' teachings.

If you have experienced sibling rivalry, and division, and you are confused about fixing it, or moving forward, please visit with me. I would be honored to walk with you in difficult times, as well as good times.

Timothy Leadership Training

(www.tlti.org) is a pastor/leader training program. New Roots Ministry offers TLT classes during both day and evening hours, for FREE.

Typically, a student can complete this program and receive the Advanced Trainer Certificate within 16 months.

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