

Scenario Four

As pastor of the church, I am going to take several steps before I take any action before the entire church. First and foremost, I am going to pray. I would seek God about each of the issues the lay leadership has brought to my attention. Additionally, I would make sure the lay leadership who brought the information to me know that I will do nothing until I have had time to pray about it. Second, I would gather the church staff team together to ask them to pray about it as well. After some time had passed, I would gather them together again and discuss the issues that the lay leadership brought to me. After the church staff has met, I would then call for a deacon meeting to discuss and pray about the issues as well. After all these things have been done, I would take some time during my sermon to address the issues that need to be addressed making sure that those visiting know we are taking care of “family” business.

Each of the issues brought forth by the lay leadership must be evaluated individually for their relevance. The following Scriptures provide useful principles when evaluating these issues.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23: *“Among the weak in faith I become weak like one of them, in order to win them. So I become all things to all people, that I may save some of them by whatever means are possible. All this I do for the gospel's sake, in order to share in its blessings.”*

Luke 19:10: *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

Matthew 25:45: *“Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”*

Philippians 4:7-8: *“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”*

Church should not be about the Church. Church should be about worshipping God and reaching out to the lost. Everything to reach and relate to the lost must be done as long as it is not unbiblical. With this in mind each point will now be addressed:

The way people are dressing: This issue must be directed at the membership of the Church and not those visiting. 1 Timothy 4:12 states that purity is something that should be modeled. If guys or girls are not dressing modestly in the church, they need to be told to put more clothes on or to go somewhere else. Those who are visiting the church and see such scantily clad members may very not be interested in returning. The lost should not be held to the dress standard of the members while visiting the Church. The most important thing is allowing Christ to save their soul and not making sure all their skin is covered up.

Dramas: Reaching the lost and unchurched is the priority. If a drama can do that, there will be drama. If that is a problem there are plenty of churches without dramas. This issue will not be addressed in front of the entire church but rather only discussed with the deacon body.

Sacrifices: Christ had no home. 11 of the 12 disciples were martyred. Surely church-goers in the richest society of the world can make some sacrifices. This issue would be directly discussed on Sunday morning.

Change: Once again, reaching the lost and the unchurched is the priority. If the lost are not being reached as effectively as they can, then things must change. Depending on the change going on in the church, this issue may or may not be addressed on Sunday morning.