



Handling Abuse and Personal Attacks from Church Members

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Apples & Oranges



Definitions



Pastor



- **A Minister in charge of a congregation**
- **A Religious Leader**
- **A Spiritual Overseer of religious believers**
- **A Sheep Herder**
- **One who administers the affairs of a local congregation**

Church Member



- A group of individuals who profess a set of beliefs
- One who identifies and understands the goals of the church
- One who attends worship regularly
- One who is involved in the business of the Church

Team



A number of persons associated together in work or activity

We are One Team

We are One Church

What have we learned so far?



- 1. We are talking about communicating**
- 2. We are talking about church**
- 3. We are talking about teamwork**

Question



***What does all this have to do
with apples and oranges?***

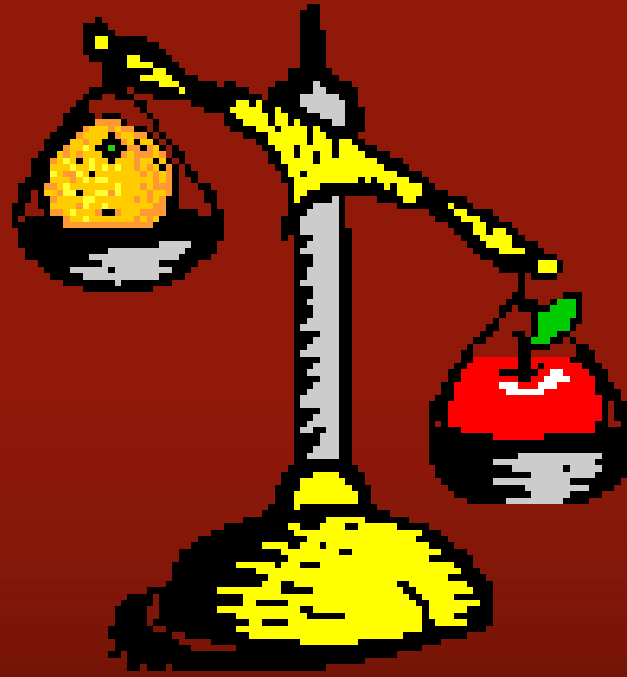


Are we comparing Apples and Oranges?



Church Pastors (Oranges)

- Strong, but flexible skin
- Easy to peel
- Soft inside



Church Members (Apples)

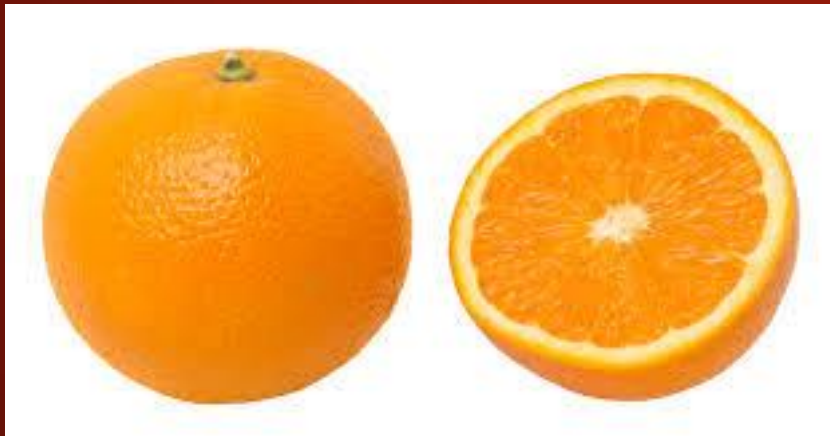
- Tough skin
- Difficult to peel
- Hard inside

Are we comparing Apples and Oranges?



Church Pastors (Oranges)

- **Sweet inside**
- **With or without seeds**



Church Members (Apples)

- **Inside same as outside**
- **Let's not even talk about the core!**



Are we comparing Apples and Oranges?



Oranges

- Fruit
- Nutritional
- Preferred by some
- Colorful
- No orange is the same

Apples

- Fruit
- Nutritional
- Preferred by some
- Colorful
- No apple is the same



And
You need both to make fruit salad!

We are One Team

We are One Church

Dilemma



How do apples and oranges work together?

Can apples and oranges compliment each other?

Is life better with both apples and oranges?

Is the Church's mission better achieved with both apples and oranges?



Working together



- Church
 - Are we part of the same church?
- Teamwork
 - Are our priorities the same?



You've Heard the Sayings



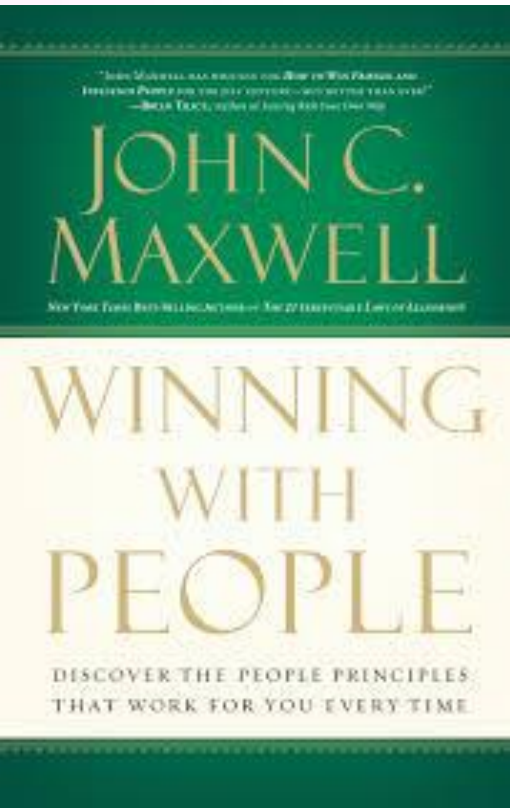
- Some hills aren't worth dying on
- Choose your battles wisely
- Some battles can be won and still lost
- Some battles just aren't worth fighting

Common Causes of Attacks



- Poor Communication
- Personalities
- Different goals
- Differing perceptions
- Different ways to respond to pressure

Working Together



John C. Maxwell's ***Winning With People***



The Readiness Question: ***Are We Prepared For Relationships?***



- **The Lens Principle**
- **The Mirror Principle**
- **The Pain Principle**
- **The Hammer Principle**
- **The Elevator Principle**

The Lens Principle



- You are the lens through which you view the world
- Who you are determines what you see
- We see others as we are, each of us has our own leanings
- Who we are determines how we see others
- What we see, how you see others, how you view life, what you do
- 5 things that determine who we are:
 - Genetics
 - Self Image
 - Experiences in Life
 - Attitudes and Choices about those experiences
 - Friends

The Mirror Principle



- Look in the Mirror
- Know yourself
- The first person we must examine is ourselves
- Coping with difficult people is always a problem
- Especially if that person happens to be you
- Everything starts from you
- Learn to be your own best friend first
- Learn to build healthy relationships

The Pain Principle



- Hurting people hurt people and are in turn hurt by them
- When dealing with difficult, hurtful people remember that they are a hurting person
- Don't take their actions personally
- Look beyond the people to the problem
- Don't hurt the hurting
- Help them find help

The Hammer Principle



- Conflict is inevitable
- Savvy leaders know how to manage tone and temperature when dealing with conflict
- Be careful not to put winning the argument ahead of winning the person
- Listen, ask questions, listen some more, ask more questions then ponder before responding
- Timing is a big deal when faced with need for confrontation
- Never use a hammer to swat a fly off someone's head

The Elevator Principle



- What impact do I have on people around me
- We can lift people up or take people down in our relationships
- Helps people around him and offers to go the extra mile
- 4 kinds of people in the world
 - Those who add, Those who subtract, Those who multiply, Those who divide
- Leader resolves to multiply the effectiveness of the people on the team

We are One Team

We are One Church

The Trust Question:

Can We Build Mutual Trust?



- **The Confrontation Principle**
- **The Bedrock Principle**
- **The Situation Principle**
- **The Approachability Principle**
- **The Patience Principle**
- **The High Road Principle**

The Synergy Question:

Can We Create A Win-Win Relationship?



We are One Team

We are One Church



Pick your battles.
You don't have to show
up to every argument
you are invited to.

- Mandy Hale

Seven held over canning bishop

KABAROLE

By Wilson Asimwe

The Bishop of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church of Western Uganda Field (WUF), Samuel Mwebaza, is nursing injuries after a group of Christians attacked and canned him on Tuesday. Mwebaza was dragged out of his office at the WUF headquarters in Fort Portal town at around 1:00pm and canned.

The angry Christians, whom the Police allege were led by Jonathan Kihumuro, accused the bishop of mismanagement of church funds and failing several projects which they had initiated.

It took the intervention of the people around the bishop's offices to rescue him as more Christians advanced towards him with sticks and stones.

Kihumuro, who is being held at Fort Portal central Police station on charges of assaulting the man of God, said several projects, including construction of a church and health centre have stalled due to the mismanagement of funds.

Grace Kabagweri, another member of the SDA church accused the bishop of disrespecting church members.



The entrance leading to the church where Mwebaza was beaten in Fort Portal

"As members of the SDA church in Rwenzori region, we thought it was wise if we could bring back to order our bishop by canning him," Kabagweri said.

She said the church members' intention was not to kill bishop Mwebaza, but rather punish him for the slowed development in the church.

"We tried to advise him for many years, but he did not adhere to our advice for over two years, so we decided to punish him," Kabagweri said.

However, other sources blamed the incident on tribal sentiments. Mwebaza hails from central Uganda.

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ The Christians accused the bishop of mismanaging church funds and failing to run several projects which they had initiated.

"It started like drama and we didn't expect the Christians to behave like that; we thought they were shooting a video but all of the sudden they started beating the bishop. We called the Police but they arrived late," Patrick Kasangaki, a businessman in Fort Portal said.

Besides Kihumuro, others arrested are Amos Mugenyi,

Julius Kakwezi, Moses Mutegeki, Bob Kaheebwa and Joshua Kakwezi, all members of the church, according to Lydia Tumushabe, the Rwenzori West regional police spokesperson. The seventh person who was arrested had not been identified by press time. "It was an embarrassment canning a bishop in public. He has reported a case of assault at Fort Portal Central Police Station and we have seven people in custody," Tumushabe said.

She said the Christians stole the bishop's valuables and damaged his laptop during the scuffle.

She added that the Police

Other incidents of assault

This is not the first time churchgoers in Uganda turn against their prelates. In February 2002, the congregation at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sesame in Kisoro were thrown into a panic when Bishop Ernest Shalita, who was in the process of sitting down, suddenly cried out in pain, clutching the seat of his cassock. Shalita, the then bishop of Muhabura Protestant Diocese, was pricked by needles believed to have been planted in his throne by unscrupulous church members.

Bishop Kityo Luwalira of Namirembe Diocese also survived being beaten when a man, clutching sticks, tried to attack him on the pulpit as he was about to start last year's Easter Sunday service. The bishop was only saved by a bar at the altar, which trapped the man before worshippers overpowered him.

was hunting for other suspects because the group was big. After investigations, they will be arraigned in court to answer charges of assault.

"The bishop is the complainant in this case. He reported the case at Police and we immediately started investigations. We condemn such acts," Tumushabe said.

Stephen Asimwe, the Resident District Commissioner for Kabarole condemned the actions of the Christians.

"That is indiscipline on the side of church members attacking a bishop with sticks and canning him. We shall not entertain that nonsense; all

those who participated in the beating will be hunted down and arrested," he said.

"It was a big embarrassment to the bishop and we have asked the head of the SDA church in Uganda to intervene because they have been embroiled in many wrangles," he explained.

By press time, the bishop could not be traced as his phone was off and his offices in Fort Portal town remained closed.

Mwebaza was the SDA Uganda Union Communications director before he was appointed bishop of WUF in 2017.



Do's and don'ts



- Pause, don't react immediately, stay calm
- Choose the right time
- Discuss in person, don't send an email
- Seek help



Defamation



- Defined as the action of damaging the reputation of someone by slander or libel
- Exposes a person to hatred, ridicule, causes them to be shunned, financially or reputationally injures person or his business
- Liability for repeating defamatory statement
- Fake news
- Defense to defamation?
- Confidentiality obligations
- Social media, blog posts, internet chat rooms



do justice
walk humbly
love kindness

M I C A H 6 : 8

APPLES



ORANGES





Questions

