








Small Group/ Reflection Notes

14-07-2024		iBelong to an imperfect church	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What has frustrated you the most this week? <input type="checkbox"/> When have <i>you</i> possibly frustrated someone else this week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> "If you find a perfect church, don't join it – you'll spoil it!" <input type="checkbox"/> What are you like with awkward 1:1 conversations? <input type="checkbox"/> If you know you must have a potentially awkward/ difficult conversation with someone, do you get it over with ASAP or put it off for as long as possible?		
 Read	<u>Matthew 18:15-20</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.15</u> : Is it ' <i>if</i> ' or, more likely, ' <i>when</i> ' sometime someone in church hacks you/ us off? Why? How can it leave us feeling? When this happens, what does Jesus tell us to do? Why not wait for the other person to come to their senses and approach you? Why is talking <i>about</i> (instead of to) someone tempting but counter-productive (even for prayer!)? Why do this 1:1, directly/ privately? If we feel frustrated/ hurt, but don't follow Jesus' advice, what are we communicating about them/ ourselves/ our relationship? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever been hurt/ offended by someone in church? Without mentioning names, what happened? <input type="checkbox"/> Have <u>you</u> ever been the one who offended/ upset someone else in the church? Again, without mentioning names, what happened? Read Matthew 5:23-24. <input type="checkbox"/> What are your tips for having such awkward conversations? When it goes well, why does it feel like a 'win'? <input type="checkbox"/> How does our "stuff" (situations, challenges, past experiences, personality characteristics...) and/or their "stuff" affect our social dynamics? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.16</u> : If you've tried unsuccessfully to resolve the matter on your own, what does Jesus then tell us to do? Why? What does requiring the support of 1 or 2 others suggest about the unresolved issue? Have you experience of this? No names: what happened? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.17</u> : If even that hasn't worked, why not simply give up on them? What are good reasons/ motivations for involving the church community? And bad reasons/ motivations for involving the church community? What is the body of Christ called to model? <input type="checkbox"/> If you've tried <i>everything</i> and <i>nothing</i> has worked (they're still behaving like someone outside of faith/ church), what does Jesus tell us to do? Why is this still about not giving up on them; <i>love</i> , <u>not</u> judgment? How did Jesus famously treat tax collectors? Read <u>Matthew 9:9-13</u> . So, what does treating them like a 'tax collector' look like? <input type="checkbox"/> What's a healthy approach to 'church discipline'?		

 Go further	<p>Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What is reconciliation? When is it required? <input type="checkbox"/> How has Christ reconciled us? Who to? How? <input type="checkbox"/> What is the 'ministry of reconciliation'? What does it look like? What does it do? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to be one of Christ's ambassadors?
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?
 Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Get reconciled to someone you're currently a bit strained with. Reach out to them.
 Pray	<p>May the <i>grace</i> of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the <i>love</i> of God, and the <i>fellowship</i> of the Holy Spirit be with <i>us all</i>, now and forever more. Amen.</p>
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.