

## **FOUR LEVELS OF RECONCILIATION HABITS**

In order to grow as reconcilers, we must intentionally change our habits. Do our habits reflect a heart of reconciliation? As you read through the items below, ask yourself, “How am I doing with these. This list of actions can help you measure how you and your church are doing in building relationships with people from other backgrounds.

The four levels of reconciliation are different categories where we are called to display our oneness in Christ. This is not an exhaustive list, but it will help identify areas for improvement.

<b>RELATIONSHIP (Pastor to Pastor)</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP (Church to Church)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with other pastors or different races and cultural backgrounds</li> <li>• Progressively sharing your Christian lives through routine conversations</li> <li>• Eating together</li> <li>• Praying for &amp; with one another</li> <li>• Sharing God’s word with each other,</li> <li>• Families getting together, Doing hobbies &amp; recreation together,</li> <li>• Serving each other with practical needs, Rejoicing and suffering together</li> <li>• Serving others together</li> <li>• Discussing racism in the church, the region, and the country from a gospel perspective (How should the gospel reshape our ministries? What idols or fears do I have that resist racial reconciliation? How has our history in the USA shaped where we are today and how has that impacted you? What does a mature racially reconciled church look like and how do we get there?)</li> <li>• Providing counsel and support for each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined conferences and workshops on cross-racial fellowship with our churches</li> <li>• Combined BBQ or other types of meal sharing</li> <li>• Combined fellowship or worship time between cross-racial churches</li> <li>• Swap pulpits</li> <li>• Develop a rhythm of ongoing regional worship services and fellowship</li> <li>• Combined small group book studies</li> <li>• Combined prayer gatherings</li> <li>• Combined racial reconciliation discussions and events</li> <li>• Cross-ministry familiarization</li> <li>• Combined youth activities</li> <li>• Combined Vacation Bible School</li> <li>• Combined church retreats</li> <li>• One church meeting the needs within another church</li> <li>• Congregations merge to become multiethnic and combine resources to accomplish greater kingdom work</li> </ul>

**PARTNERSHIP (Church with Church)**

- Commit to developing a regional kingdom ministry focus
- Jointly research and identify the various types of needs in the region that the church is called to respond to. Prioritize these as the Church's regional ministry focus
- Develop a strategy to begin the highest priority joint-ministry project.
- Jointly select a ministry lead who is the best gifted for that ministry, with a simple line of accountability to the church pastors working as a joint leadership team
- Establish regional ministry goals, duration, and maintenance
- Provide churches with updates and celebrate accomplishments together
- Churches become the systematically and incrementally help centers for a variety of tangible needs (food, clothing, housing, life skills, addiction issues, mentoring, tutoring, parenting, counseling, adopting schools, foster care/adoption of children, ministry to the disabled, and more...

**CITIZENSHIP (Church to City)**

- Church leaders study the subject of biblical justice and determine what issues of injustice most heavily impact vulnerable in the region, and that the church is called to serve and advocate for (widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor...)
- Train church members, including children on the subject of biblical justice and help them to see justice as a key element of God's will for the church
- Training for pastors and church leaders to advocate for those suffering injustice from government and businesses, serving as representatives of the regional church
- Establishing a regional justice ministry with Christian attorneys to advocate and provide legal services for those being unjustly treated. (Justice only goes to those who can afford it.... Sliding scale fees that doesn't create financial crisis for those needing legal representation or advice
- The regional justice ministry would also serve to pursue more just laws in the region that reflect the biblical principles of impartial justice, mercy, and compassion
- Train church members how to be compassionate witnesses to public injustice (learn how to use your cell phone video to capture potential injustice without interfering.
- Network with establish justice initiatives who help wrongly convicted or over sentenced people out of prison.
- Promote alternatives to prison (See creative judge who has a 10% recidivism rate)
- Training for pastors and church members on when and how to intervene and de-escalate social unrest.
- Encourage and participate in police reforms, and facilitate improved police/minority relations