

## **HEALTHY CHURCHES: DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG CHURCH LEADERS**

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Leaders within church ministries experience many challenges when it comes to handling human emotions in relationship. Oftentimes, they are ill-equipped and unprepared to deal with eruptive or volatile human behavior affecting leadership. Those who can better understand human emotions and behavior can more easily predict internal conflict within themselves and others and operate more successfully as leaders reconciling relationships that suffer conflict.

This project sought to give church leaders a base knowledge of what constitutes healthy and unhealthy human relationships. Biblical knowledge and examples of leader relationship styles create a foundation for better understanding human emotion and behavior within relationships. Through a seminar outlining the principles of healthy and unhealthy leader-relational characteristics, this project endeavored to help participants assess, interpret, and create an action plan of reconciliation for healthier relations in church ministry and solidify strengths in current leadership styles and management. The seminar successfully achieved its objectives in educating church leaders in ways of assessing and diagnosing relationships within the church, and nurturing healthy ones.

As more pastors and ministry leaders better understand their own verbal and behavioral actions, they will better appreciate the positive and negative effects of their verbal and behavioral interaction upon followers. Ultimately, a change in a leader's emotional and behavioral actions will effect a change in the spirituality and psychology of a follower. A Christian leader is to promote Jesus Christ's quality and character of leadership style; therefore, the responsibility to understand and nurture healthy psychological qualities and character and good interpersonal relationships lies with Christian leaders.