

God has stipulated that within the church of God we are to treat one another as brothers and sisters-in-Christ. What about our blood brothers and sisters? What is a God-honouring sibling relationship like? Let us learn from Moses’ relationship with his siblings.

1.    Help one another fulfil God’s will for their lives (Exod 3-4: The call of Moses to service): Aaron was called by God to help Moses fulfil God’s will for Moses’ life. God would speak to Moses who would then convey the message to Aaron to speak to Pharaoh. Helping Moses (who was Aaron’s younger brother) was God’s will for Aaron’s life.

If God gives us believing siblings, we have the godly duty of helping one another to fulfil God’s will for our lives. A believer is to know God’s will for his life. No one else can discern God’s will on his behalf. When we have strayed from, or failed, God, our godly siblings can give us godly advice using God’s Word, and encourage us to turn back to God. And vice versa. If God gives us unbelieving siblings, God’s desiderative will for them is to be saved. Our calling then is to point them to Jesus and to pray for their salvation.

2.    Worship and serve together (Exod 15: Moses and Miriam praising God, Lev 8: Moses consecrating Aaron and his sons): In Exodus 15, Moses praised and thanked God for delivering them. And Miriam, following Moses’ example, joined him in corporate worship. When we worship biblically, we set a good example for our siblings (whether older or younger) to follow.

In Leviticus 8, Moses consecrated Aaron and his sons as priests to the service of God. Together, they enabled one another to fulfil what God wanted them to do in His service.

Siblings who are believers must worship together, rejoicing for common deliverances and for how God is working in their individual lives. *“Bear ye one another’s burdens”* (Gal 6:2), pray for one another, serving God together, for His glory!

3.    Rebuke sin in love (Exod 32: Aaron rebuked for his sin of the golden calf): In Exodus 32, Moses’ anger waxed hot with a genuine hatred for the sin of idolatry which dishonoured God’s name. Moses confronted Aaron out of a righteous indignation to Aaron’s sin against God. [Note that although Moses was angry with the sin, he did not begin by accusing Aaron but asked Aaron for an explanation: *“What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?”* (Exod 32:21).] Moses had to stop the people in their sin (Exod 32:25-29), and then to pray for them (Exod 32:30-35) and for Aaron specifically (Deut 9:20).

When we see sins in our believing siblings’ lives, we cannot commit the sin of silence. But we must also not just bluntly point out their sins. We must go to them sincerely with a heart of compassion and love, desiring for them to be right with God again.

4.    Have compassion even in the face of opposition (Num 12: The God-honouring way to deal with conflicts): In Numbers 12:2, Aaron and Miriam questioned Moses’ calling. Being a meek man, Moses did not defend himself. God stepped in to vindicate him. And *“Miriam became leprous”* (Num 12:10). Although his siblings opposed him, Moses, with genuine love for his sister, *“cried unto the Lord”* (Num 12:13) to heal his sister. Moses had the heart to forgive his siblings and to restore their fellowship (Num 12:15). We too must have compassion for our siblings even when they oppose us or say hateful things about us. Like Moses, we must respond with meekness, and forgive our siblings.

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