

# When We Don't Agree

One of the main reasons for having a Christian school is that there may be unanimity between parents and teachers about the standards and methods used to educate children. We pray that under God this expectation will be realized and that a spirit of Christian co-operation will fill our efforts.

From time to time, however, disagreements may arise between student and teacher or teacher and parent. Differences of opinions are not themselves good or bad; this is quite normal. However, should differences of opinion lead to negative, divisive and distrustful attitudes and actions, then action must be taken to correct the situation. It would be very unfortunate if either or both parties began a crusade for support of their own particular views. Direct dialogue generally resolves most disputes.

We suggest the following as a sound and scriptural approach to dealing with such a situation.

- Get all the facts. Listen to both sides of the story and accept the possibility of bias or short-sightedness in your child's account of an event. Don't jump to conclusions.
- Speak directly to the appropriate people involved. Most of the time this will be your child's teacher. Matthew 18:15-17 states that if you hold something against someone, you should approach him/her directly. Do not approach the principal until you have met with the teacher.
- Avoid speaking to inappropriate people. The Christian community should not be involved in your personal grievance. Gossip is not useful in solving problems.
- If you are dissatisfied with the teacher's response, bring the matter to the principal. He or she will discuss the matter with the teacher involved and may call for a meeting of all parties involved, if necessary.
- If the principal's decision does not satisfy you, request a meeting with the Program Committee to deal with the situation.
- Should the Program Committee fail to reconcile and heal the situation, a presentation should be made to the Society Board of Directors.

(NOTE: Conflict Resolution for Christian Schools, an OACS guideline, is available from the office)

<b>PARENT</b> (child)	<b>→ TEACHER</b> (discussion)	<b>→ PRINCIPAL</b> (decision)	<b>→ PROGRAM COMMITTEE</b> (review)	<b>→ GDACS BOARD</b> (ends appeal)
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