

# **I Am Willing to Meet the Person Where They Are: Through Acceptance and Compromise**

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**LUMC 2011 Group Project**

This is our Lord's solution to the puzzle of resolving conflict and misunderstanding. Suppose our congregation/church/a person was crossways over whether or not it was willing to meet a person where they are spiritually, emotionally, etc. Here is a way to come to resolution. Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open doors means to me that we are supposed to accept people as they are. No matter their race, sex, or their sexual orientation, etc. It is not our job to judge the person; it is our responsibility to help this person in their relationship with God. The Book of Discipline (2008) says on page 89 paragraph. 127. "The Church as the community of the new covenant has participated in Christ's ministry of grace across the years and around the world. It stretches out to human needs wherever love and service may convey God's love and ours. The outreach of such ministries **knows no limits**. Beyond the diverse forms of ministry is this ultimate concern: that all persons will be brought into a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ and be renewed after the image of their creator (Col 3:10) This means that all Christians are called to minister wherever Christ would have them serve and witness in deeds and words that heal and free." What does it mean to meet someone where they are? I think it means to minister to them. Everyone is at a different place in their relationship with God. It means don't wait for this person to get on "your level". It means to minister to this person's needs.

Compromise is a difficult word for a lot of people. For the most part are very set in our ways and beliefs, and believe that the way we do it is the only and right way to do it. When it comes to meeting someone where they are the word compromise is kind of thrown out the door. God calls us to minister to all people; that means no matter their sexual preference, marital status, weekend habits, race, ethnic background, or sex. We may personally believe that some of these things are wrong, but we as disciples of Jesus Christ have to meet these people where they are at, and not pass judgment on them.

Christ said, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7 NLT) It is also not our job to try and change these people; all we need to do is shower these people with God’s love. So what do we need to do to accept? I think we simply meet people where they are at in their lives. We love on them no matter their situation. We do not question them.