

Christian Relations

Healthy communications are Vital to any family including the Family of God.

I read this Articles today and highly recommend them here are a few excerpts and my comments follow.

Surviving Self-righteous Christians

Black and white thinking

People who are self-righteous see life in a black and white way, and woe betide anyone who tries to interject shades of grey in their world view. Certainly the Pharisees of Jesus' day fit into this category. They rigidly kept their own version of God's law and expected everyone else to do the same. They were very upset when anyone did or said something that did not fit into their concept of right and wrong, such as the disciples gathering a little snack on the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:2).

A judgemental and condemning attitude

People who have rigid ideas of what they think is right and wrong can be very judgmental and condemning of others. Since the Pharisees saw themselves as being right, they harshly judged anyone who stepped out of line. One of the first things they said to Jesus questioned why he ate with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:11).

An inability to listen

Self-righteous people only listen to people to find a break where they can interject their opinion. The Pharisees did not pay any attention to what Jesus said and kept pushing their own agenda. When Jesus did not fall in line with their religious rules, the Pharisees sought to destroy Him.

A lack of empathy

When self-righteous people are bent on carrying out their own agenda, they don't care about others. They want to feel right, justified and in control. Self-righteousness is a kind of self-love, not a love of God or others.

<http://carolafinch.hubpages.com/hub/Surviving-Self-righteous-Christians>

COMMENTS

That is such a Good article. One can be bashed, battered or bruised by Christians who have certain rigid standards and an inability to listen. What they have to say is so much more important than anything you have to say, appeal or confide. Their insensitivity manifests in their words and can be so damaging. Sometimes your words can be misconstrued into things you never meant....etc That kind of reception...or should I say reaction is quite devilish and unchristlike. Sometimes we can even encounter this with a good Christian when their own standards are too high....they are offended at something we say, they fail to interpret right....or the enemy whispers something in their ear.

Many Christians can get very upset or angry when we don't conform to their value system. They may or may not be Self Righteous. Some just have touchy areas in what they firmly believe to be true – you can say something quite genuine and innocent and their conscience is offended. We would all do well to (consciously) invite The Lord into our conversations.....or remember that He is Ever-Present - not just when we're at our best.

Here are some excerpts from 2 Articles on Frank Viola's Blog
The 1st is by Frank Viola and the 2nd by Jon Zens

Warning: The World is Watching How We Christians Treat One Another

“If Christians cannot extend grace through faithful presence within the body of believers, they will not be able to extend grace to those outside.”

It's not uncommon for some Christians to throw verbal assaults at one another on Facebook, blogs, Twitter, and other Internet venues. As a result, the world sees people who profess to follow Jesus . . . fighting, misrepresenting one another, and even “blocking” one another.

**“ If you bite and devour one another, take heed that you don't consume one another”
(Gal 5:13)**

When disagreements descend into second-guessing motives, distortions of one another's words, mischaracterizations of one another's views, and personal attacks, then we've moved into the flesh.

The net is that the name of Jesus gets tarnished in no small way.

So how do we change that?

Here are 7 points to consider the next time you think you have a possible disagreement with another Christian:

Go to them privately and ask them what they meant by what they said, did, or wrote or what they allegedly said, did, or wrote.

Jesus said to go to your brother/sister in private if we have an issue with them. Since we don't want to misrepresent others in public, going to them directly helps prevent this. And you would want the same treatment if the shoe happened to be on your foot.

When you go to another believer privately, ask them questions. Don't make accusations. Again, put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself, “How would I want to be treated if this person was me and I had concerns or possible problems with them?” In my experience, I've found that accusations based on second or third-hand information are usually inaccurate. And they are often rooted in misunderstandings.

One time Jesus made a statement about one of His followers saying, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” Because of this remark, a rumor spread among the disciples that the disciple Jesus was referring to would never die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” (John 21:22-23)

If Jesus — the perfect Teacher — was misunderstood by those who were in His corner, how much more does it happen to us?

Never, ever, judge the motives or intentions of another human being. To do so is to sin against them and against God.

You and I cannot read someone else's heart. While it's fine to question someone's judgment, it's wrong to judge their motives. “Love thinks no evil,” Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13, but it always believes the best of others. Again, this is covered under Jesus' golden, “do unto others” commandment.

Never entertain gossip or slander about another sister or brother in Christ.

Again, treat others the same way you want them to treat you. Jesus not only commanded this, He said this commandment fulfills the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12). By the way, I've found that many Christians don't know what slander or gossip is (unless it's happening to them).

Seek peace with all you have. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone," Paul said in Romans 12:18.

None of us can claim immaculate perception. So we should be open for correction. But how you approach someone is incredibly important. *How we treat one another while we disagree is just as important as the nature of our disagreement.*

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/frankviola/warning/>

The Most Ignored Sin

Gossip and slander color people's perceptions of an individual unfairly and unjustly without their knowledge or consent. One major component in both of these sins is that the person being torn down is out of the loop. Talebearers usually avoid speaking directly to the one they are demeaning.

The union of Christ with his people should certainly give us reason for great caution with our words about fellow believers. Paul said in Romans 14:15, "Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died." I think we are also warranted in saying, "Do not by your words destroy your brother or sister for whom Christ died." It is a very serious matter to hurt anyone in Christ's little flock (Luke 17:1-4).

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/frankviola/themostignoredsin/>

***"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ" . . .
If it weren't for Christians, I'd be a Christian." (Ghandi)***

I encourage you to read the above Articles

the Links are provided.

COMMENTS

My advice to all of you is when you follow some of the advice in the last two Articles is not to do so legalistically but in the true spirit of Christ. It's only just last week that I mentioned something to a brother who knows 2 other brothers and I was trying to establish whether he could arrange something that was important. He did not listen closely to me or pick up the right emphasis.

Next thing, he jumped down my throat saying that I made accusations about 2 of 'his brothers' (they are mine also) and I've had really nice times with them.

I told him that he had misinterpreted me and made me out to be a villan. Friends, he has a prophetic ministry but he did not know my heart or care to. Instead, he became agitated and recklessly worded, majoring on what was minor, because I knew my motives were pure and harmless.

Would it not be better to be Peace-Makers if we suspect something wrong – providing that person is not determined to gossip or slander – and encourage Unity rather than breaking it? Gossip and slander can cause factions.....so can Legalism and thoughtless reactions; a refusal to give that person the benefit of the doubt.

And what if that person is genuinely confiding from the depths of their heart maybe wanting some assistance, comfort or uplifting?
I say, this is damaging to their soul and just as damaging to the body of Christ.
We need The Lord's Love and Wisdom in some of these matters!

I AM RESEARCHING SOME ARTICLES FOR THIS PAGE
I HAVE CHOSEN TO USE APPROPRIATE ARTICLES AND MAKE COMMENTS
BECAUSE IT MAKES FOR BALANCE.

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless us
and make our communications a Light to the world
instead of their scorn.

“SEE HOW THEY LOVE EACH OTHER.....NOW WE CAN SEE JESUS”

Believe me, it would make for much happier relations.....Yes!