

The Body of Christ: How Do We Deal with Disagreement and Offenses? Sunday, November 22, 2020

- * We live in a time and culture when people go to a special building on Sunday mornings, attend a 90-minute service, and call themselves members of a particular church!
- * Have we ever read this in the New Testament? Do we find scripture that even slightly describes our faith this way? Do we even find anyone in the New Testament that “went to church?”
- * I’m not trying to be legalistic, sarcastic or abrasive!
- * I DO THINK that by the simple way we refer to this shows how we have removed the sacred and awesome mystery from what being The Church is!
- * We are an assembly of The Body of Christ! We represent Him!
- * Something that God has designed as a family has been reduced to an hour-long weekly meeting.

I. The one thing and priority that the Church of Jesus Christ is to be known for...is love!

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

A. If THAT is what we are to be known for, what do you do with and how do you prioritize other important issues?

1. Issues of scripture?
2. Issues of agreement?
3. Issues of right and wrong?
4. Issues of preference?

B. Jesus makes it clear that our love is what attracts the world to us and our message!

1. Do we want to be known for great outreach...or love?
2. Do we want to be known for creative worship...or love?
3. Do we want to be known for powerful preaching...or love?
4. Clearly, God cares about this...so why do we not care?

II. We are individuals and very diverse in thought and life! We have very different life experiences and approach our faith differently! Therefore, there are enormous opportunities to disagree and become offended! How do we handle that according to The Lord?

Matthew 5:23-24 (TPT)

23 “So then, if you are presenting a gift before the altar in the temple and suddenly you remember a quarrel you have with a fellow believer,
24 leave your gift there in front of the altar and go at once to apologize with the one who is offended. Then, after you have reconciled, come to the altar and present your gift.

- A. Notice the “context” of this verse! It is right at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount.
 1. When Jesus is talking about this new kingdom behavior!
 2. Right after The Beatitudes.
 3. Right after Him telling us to be salt and light.
 4. Right in the middle of how to deal with anger, lust, broken marriages and loving those who are against you!
 5. WHY do we not see the importance of this and why do we not willingly practice this? Go to your brother/sister!
- B. The serious and humbling aspect of this particular scriptural encouragement is that it is directly spoken of in context of

worship!

1. He is saying, “In your life of worship, if you realize you are in a quarrel with someone, interrupt your worship and go and patch things up!”
2. Do you see the seriousness of this?
3. All throughout scripture God speaks of how our relationships with one another matter!
4. One such example is:

1 Peter 3:7 (TPT)

7 Husbands, you in turn must treat your wives with tenderness, viewing them as feminine partners who deserve to be honored, for they are co-heirs with you of the “divine grace of life,” so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

C. This is spoken of multiple different ways throughout scripture!

1 Corinthians 8:13 (NLT)

13 So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.

Romans 14:21 (NLT)

21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

1. All throughout the different letters to the various churches, Paul stresses the importance of relationships.
2. Over and over he says, “Don’t get tangled up! And if you do, get untangled quickly!”

D. You are responsible for you!

1. Remember the context here! The Beatitudes!
2. “Blessed are those who MAKE FOR PEACE!”
3. Not those “who prefer peace.”
4. Not those who “experience peace.”

Romans 12:17-18 (AMP)

17 Never repay anyone evil for evil. Take thought for what is right and gracious and proper in the sight of everyone. 18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

(NIV)

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

(NLT)

17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

(TPT)

17 Never hold a grudge or try to get even, but plan your life around the noblest way to benefit others. 18 Do your best to live as everybody's friend.

5. Remember, you are responsible for you! But that means that you must do your part!
6. And that part is to GO TO YOUR BROTHER!

E. Bottom line from Jesus' words; reconciliation is harder than worship!