

Proverbs 3:5



Words To Find:
 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding"

Make Others a Priority

Bill Brinkworth

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes how important it is to be concerned about other people. Our natural flesh sometimes wants to be jealous of others, or ignore their needs completely. In Colossians 1, Paul is an example of how we should genuinely be concerned about others. The preacher reminds us, by his concern for the Colossian Christians, that we should:

- Continually pray for others' needs (Col. 1:9). A habit of faithfully praying for others and their needs will ease any hard feelings we have for them, will keep us humble, and will help keep us from exhibiting a selfish nature.
- Desire that others will know

God's will and have understanding of spiritual things (Col. 1:9). We should want all to know all they can about the things of God.

- Desire that others will produce Christian "fruits", and that they will do much for the cause of Christ (Col. 1:10).
- Desire that others will be strengthened and develop Christian character (Col. 1:11).

In a world that has become miserably self-centered, an "others first" attitude is unique. Contrary to what many think, this attitude is the one way to get our needs met. When we help others, God will raise up others to help us with what we need.

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What to Do When a Christian Sins Against You

Bill Brinkworth

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

Matthew 18:15-17

Most Christians have had a problem with another Christian at one time or another — even in a church. The Bible gives advice as how a Christian should handle a situation when another Christian sins against him. Take note that the advice is not to be used every time one's feelings are hurt by another believer or when one feels offended. The context is

clearly when one is sinned ("trespass") against.



It does not say start a smear campaign and tell everybody your side of the situation and get a whole bunch of people bitter at the other person. When you do that, and convincingly get others to think you are right and the other is wrong, you are bringing the innocent listener "shame and folly" (Proverbs 18:13) for making others judge a situation without hearing the other side.

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Don't Let the Carnal Fight the Carnal!

Bill Brinkworth

Paul, like so many Christians even today, faced some opposition from other Christians. Some in the churches that he spoke at questioned his apostleship, and others accused him of walking in the flesh (II Corinthians 10:2). No

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The Word of God also does not say, when another has offended you, to hold it all in and set yourself up for a severe case of “bitterness” against that person. Waiting around for him to come to you and getting it right is also not on the Bible’s recommended list of ways to handle the situation.

It does say to go to him. If a Christian has sinned against you, God’s Word says the obligation to get the matter settled is on the one that has been sinned against. Many times that person may not even know they offended you or recognize that they have sinned. Going to the person one-on-one will often solve the problem.

When you go to that person you may discover:

- ◆ He did not mean it the way you understood it.
- ◆ That you heard it wrong!
- ◆ A new way of looking at a matter.
- ◆ That you were 100% wrong!

I have been embarrassed many times, when I actually talked with a person and found that my being upset at a person

“Temper gets us into trouble, but pride usually keeps us there!”

was not justified. It takes courage to face a person when they have offended you, and they may not always accept your confronting them.

That is why there is another step in getting the problem solved that is found in Mat. 18:17-18. There may be a time that in order to settle the differences between you and the other person, you may have to bring one that is unbiased with you to be a witness of further communications with the person that has sinned against you. Rarely, it may even be necessary to take the matter to the church, if the person is a member in your church.

By the way, standing in front of an assembly of believer’s and spilling the “dirt” against another is probably not going to result in any good, and it most likely will not help the one that has sinned. In most church situations, it is wiser to go to the pastor of the church, let him know what has happened, and how you have handled the problem. It should be up to the leader as to how he wants to handle the situation further.

People shudder at the Bible’s way of handling a problem. Most do not handle it properly, and that is why there are so many disgruntled people in many churches. It is why many “... soweth discord among brethren” (Prov. 6:19), and why there are so many living with bitterness in their lives. Follow

God’s advice in solving a problem between you and another Christian. Our heavenly Father knows best; as He has raised trillions of children!

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matter the accusation, Paul chose not to fight back. He chose not to fight those who were carnal with his own carnal retorts. He chose to let his works for the Lord speak for themselves, and let the Lord do the rest of the battling (II Cor. 10:4-8).

Everyone that attends a church has someone falsely accuse him of something or else has his feelings hurt at least once. No church is perfect. It is a God-commanded assembly of believers, and it may have mostly Christians in attendance, but none of them are perfect. Some members of the church family are more carnal than others. They see things from a fleshly perspective and not how God sees them (II Cor.10:5). To make matters worse they often voice their opinions about other members. When this is done, someone usually gets hurt.

Too many, unfortunately, get wind of what was said about them and leave the church — never to darken the church doors again. My first thought is usually, “Who would be behind such a move of leaving a church for the

wrong reasons — God or Satan?” It certainly would not be of God to disobey his command (Hebrews 10:24-25) to assemble with other believers; yet people leave churches all the time for the wrong reasons.

There have been times that we, my wife and I, also have had things said about us by other church family members. The false accusations hurt us deeply, but we remembered that we were not in attendance for the accusers, but for God. He wanted us to stay, and we did. It was a hard time, and much praying was done on our part. We never missed a meeting, and we kept at the work the Lord had for us. Over time, we looked around and noticed that we had our nose to the grindstone doing what God had laid on our hearts, but our accusers were no longer in attendance. God does take care of his own, but that does not mean that there will not be difficulties.

Paul stayed and did what God told him to do, and God used him greatly. His accusers’ names are not even mentioned in the Bible, but Paul is still remembered. Be a “Paul”. Purpose in your heart whom you will serve, and then let the Lord handle the light work!

“Hopefully, you didn’t go to church for “feelings”, so don’t leave if they get hurt. You should be going to church to be obedient to the Lord!”