Don’t Treat All People Alike!

How dare we treat all people the same. God never wanted us to treat everybody alike. I wonder how many people, in the name of culturalized fairness or a fear of being prejudiced, have mistakenly thought that God wanted them to treat everybody the same way?

Doesn’t sound very friendly, does it? In actuality, it may be the most friendly thing you can do. God’s goal is to get people to heaven. Man’s goal is often to get more people to “like me.” God’s goal is salvation; man’s goal is popularity. God’s goal is to get our sins forgiven; man’s goal is get friends or get even! (“If I can’t get that person for a friend, then I’ll ‘get him’ with revenge.”)

What saith the scriptures? Certainly, scripture does not teach prejudice (prejudging from lack of knowledge with bias). But the Bible does teach that after properly assessing a situation, we should act according to the lifestyle of the person needing to change.

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men, 1Thessalonians 5:12-15

Did you catch that middle section? “Admonish the unruly.” Those who choose to break God’s rules jeopardize their salvation! (Remember the goal is not human acceptance, but eternal salvation.) They should be admonished (helped to get back to the straight path to God.) They should not be ignored or encouraged.

If someone’s problem is faintheartedness, he should be encouraged. (The Greek word means to “encourage, comfort or console). Courage should be built into the heart by Christian brothers and sisters in his or her church family.

If the problem is weakness, the call is to help. Helping may take many forms: time, counsel, cooking, cleaning, mutual projects or simple visits. And of course, be patient with all men.

Unfortunately, we sometimes mis-diagnose the problem and thus apply the wrong “medicine.” It is ineffective to give encouragement to the unruly. It is usually destructive to admonish the fainthearted. It is never constructive to lose patience with anyone.

Gain facts before you act. Be benevolent in your assessments of others. Be careful not to apply the wrong tactic to the ailing heart. And remember the goal of instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5).

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