

The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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Ignoring Problems is no solution!



Legend has it that the ostrich will stick its head in the ground when danger is near, hoping that if the problem is ignored it will go away. Of course, no one has ever observed an ostrich actually doing this. It is just a popular tale. However, that some people have developed an “ostrich” mentality in regard to problems, is not a tale. When problems arise, they do all they can to ignore them. They pretend that they do not exist, thinking that perhaps they will simply take care of themselves. This is usually a big mistake. Problems rarely just work themselves out. In most cases problems need solving. They need to be addressed in a straight forward fashion. Ignoring difficulties is not the answer. Consider with me the following:

Problems Between Brethren

The church is made up of individuals. Wherever you have people, you have the potential for “people problems.” In fact, the biggest problem that consistently confronts the church in every age is the problem of brethren learning to get along, not when everything is “running smoothly,” but when differences arise. How should brethren act, or react, when there are differences of opinion? How should we act when a brother sins against us? In reality each case must be handled on an individual basis. If it is a problem concerning sin, repentance and forgiveness is required. If it is a problem that involves differences of personal opinions, it must be ascertained how important it is for those differences to be resolved. Brethren do not always have to see everything eye to eye, but it should be mutually agreed by brethren in such cases to disagree. Remember, we are not talking about a doctrinal issue here that is going to involve collective action; we are dealing with personal opinions. Read Romans fourteen! It is important, however, that when there is a disagreement of any kind, it is to be talked out so that the proper attitude one towards another can exist. The answer is not to stick one’s head in the ground and ignore the situation. When problems are ignored between brethren, relationships break down, grudges are developed, and the church is weakened as a result.

Problems with self

One of the hardest things to do is face problems that we have within ourselves. We all have character flaws of some sort. Some are more serious than others; however, because our character is so important as Christians, we need to work on even the smallest character flaws that we have whenever we can. Again, ignoring problems with self is not appropriate. It will not help us grow as Christians. It will not, in cases where it might affect our souls, help us to overcome the devil. It might be easier to ignore our personal flaws, but it is certainly not best. What kind of flaws am I talking about? Well they might range from talking too much to being short-tempered. Some people are always mad. That’s a flaw that needs attention. Some people are prideful. Some people are too forward, always speaking their mind no matter who might be hurt by their words. These are

characteristics in people that can and should be worked on. We have all heard people say, “That’s just the way I am” or “that’s just me.” That attitude will not help a person make it to heaven. We readily see character flaws in others, let’s take inventory of ourselves and see what areas need work.

Well, we could probably say more in regard to problems in different areas. Problems arise at work, at school, at home, etc. But one thing is for sure: ignoring problems of any kind is never a good solution. When problems arise, let us not stick our heads in the ground and hope they go away. Instead, we must confront them prayerfully and try to solve them.

Don

Just the Words of Jesus?

Author Unknown

It’s always tough on a young child who’s been taught to honor the Bible as God’s word, when he confronts modern theologies for the first time. David, at eleven years old, recently had a religious discussion with two buddies from school. The first boy, Jason, said, “You take the Bible too literally.” Hmm. Sounds like something he might have heard from his parents, who belong to a large and rather “relaxed” denomination.

Responding incredulously, David asked, “How can you take the Bible too literally? We’re supposed to live by it.”

To which little Monte replied, “Well at least the words of Jesus.” Something he also has learned from his father.

The comments of these two lads are classic representations of our age. The charge of “taking the Bible too literally” has been around longer than the second statement. It is the criticism-of-choice for millions of folks who like religion, but don’t want to let it run their lives.

More recently has emerged the mantra, “We just need to follow the words of Jesus.” That excludes the words of Paul, Peter, James and everyone else. The irony is that all anybody knows of the words of Jesus were reported by someone else!

This concept, sometimes called the Christological Hermeneutic, is particularly popular among our more liberal-minded brethren. It’s also big with brethren who were raised with very conservative religious views, but who have now become too “enlightened” to be bothered with a Thus Saith The Lord. (That just happens to be the very situation of Monte’s family.)

Many will insist, “We just need to do what Jesus would have done in this situation.” The problem is obvious. They don’t have a clue as to what Jesus would have done. But that’s okay, because whatever they think He would have done is close enough.

The bottom line of both sentiments is the same: we’re pretty much free to do anything we want. That’s the engine that drives both trains. And it’s the desire to “justify” anything and everything that leads men to ultimately reject scripture. But men’s folly cannot shake the revealed word of God. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).