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GETTING BETTER AT LOVE by Dealing with Hypocrisy

Message by Pastor Michael Vuorensivu
Cedar Grove Church | June 18, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

“Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.”
1 Corinthians 13:6 (CEV)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

Behaving Like a Christian

Dealing with Hypocrisy

Q: What is hypocrisy?

“Hypocrisy” refers to the act of claiming to believe something but acting in a different manner. When someone says they believe everyone should tell the truth and then gets caught lying ... that person is called a hypocrite.

The word hypocrisy is derived from the Greek term for “actor”—literally, “one who wears a mask”—in other words, someone who pretends to be what he or she is not.

The Bible calls hypocrisy a sin. There are two forms hypocrisy can take:

1. Professing belief in something and then acting in a manner contrary to that belief, and
2. Looking down on others when we ourselves are flawed.

When we decide that we will **CRITICIZE others behind their back** instead of correct it is called gossip.

2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. Matthew 23:2-3

- Telling the truth to another **IN PRIVATE** is the most powerful form of truth telling.

Effective Discipline & Correction

- Make **ENCOURAGEMENT** a way of life.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Q: But what happens if you are hurt by another brother or sister?

- Go to the offending brother/sister **PERSONALLY** and discuss the problem with them for the purposes of reconciliation.

“If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.” Matthew 18:15

Three Reasons to Go to Them Directly:

1. You may be **WRONG** in your judgement.
2. The person who has sinned against you **MAY NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF IT.**
3. The Bible **COMMANDS** it.

“But if he will not listen to you, take one or two others along, so that every matter be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses” Matthew 18:16



Why go with two or three others?

- You may still be **WRONG.**
- The two chosen should be people whom both parties would likely **RESPECT.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not using any names, discuss your experience of hypocrisy and gossip in the church. Are these issues within the church?

Read - Galatians 2:11-14 (NIV)

1. When Paul recognized the seriousness of the situation he confronted Peter, and:
 - a) talked about it with his closest friends first;
 - b) asked others how they felt about what was happening;
 - c) Went to Peter personally;
 - d) dealt with the issue publicly;
 - e) C & D



(vv. 11, 14) Peter was corrected before all because the Jews had been wrong to follow him, and the Gentiles had been injured by their actions. Peter was singled out because even in his wrong-doing...he was a leader and he should have known better than to exhibit this kind of behaviour. The outcome of the confrontation was what we all hope for when we address issues of hypocrisy...Peter and the others repented and the behaviour was corrected.

2. Could this have been handled differently? Why or why not?

3. What if someone here is hurt by another brother or sister and instead of dealing directly with them, and picking an appropriate time and place, contemplating what needs to be said and moving in this way ... what if they instead grabbed you and shared their hurt with you, just to get it off their chest? What is the risk to entertaining the conversation in the first place? What should be your first question?

Note: The concern with listening to the grievance without knowing the purpose is that you then could be drawn into this issue and then take up an offence on their behalf against the supposedly offending brother or sister and now the issue has grown and may continue to grow if we do not stop the gossip and the backroom meetings.

4. What could be the ultimate issue? *Note: Division within the church, deterioration of the ministry, disintegration of the witness.*

5. Where and when have you seen issues between brothers and sisters in Christ handled well?

6. Were you involved in the issue? If so how?



Close by praying for the group.

NOTES

