

What Conversation Are You Having?

“Conversations Worth Having, Part 2”

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Thread: **As followers of Jesus, we pay attention to which _____ we’re having.**

²⁷“*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you... ³¹Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*”

Luke 6:27-31 NLT

- **Challenge yourself to go much further than you think reasonable.**

WHAT IS MY GOAL?

³⁵“*Love your enemies! Do good to them... for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. ³⁶You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*” **Luke 6:35-36 NLT**

³⁷“*Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you.*” **Luke 6:37a NLT**

JUDGE = Pronounce as guilty and unredeemable.
CONDEMN = Pronounce the eternal sentence.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO OR THINK?

“First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

⁴³“*A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ⁴⁴A tree is identified by its fruit.... ⁴⁵A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **What you say flows from what is in your heart.**”*
Luke 6:42b-45 NLT

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN “DON’T JUDGE...AND FRUIT TREES” TEACHES:

- to know WHICH conversations I’m having.
- to know better what is coming out of my heart while in these conversations.

SUMMARY

Jesus wants you and me to know what conversation we are having when we sit down to speak with divisive, offensive, hurtful people.

- We speak on behalf of God.
- We are inspired and empowered by the Spirit of the living God.

- We’re offering hope and an invitation to experience Him so that someone far from God could come near.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14 ESV

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”

¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”

Galatians 5:16-25 NLT

God has given us powerful means to achieve our goals of:

- “loving my enemy.”
- having the conversations that resolve issues.
- helping people see God’s best for their lives.

TWO STRAIGHTFORWARD LISTS

WHAT NOT TO DO

Hostility
Quarreling
Jealousy
Outburst of anger
Selfish ambition
Dissension
Division
Envy
Sarcasm; jaded

WHAT TO DO

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear."

1 Peter 3:15-16a NLT

How am I supposed to undo what I've done?

How can I have the right conversations moving forward?

The answer is the same for both:

"Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves... These two forces are constantly fighting each other..."

Galatians 5:16-17 NLT

- Go into _____ to speak on behalf of God.
- *"Let the Holy Spirit GUIDE you."*
- Know which _____ will help you achieve your goals, and which will hurt you.

Challenge:

- What conversations are you having with people?
- How often do you offer mercy to the undeserving?
- What's motivating your desire to judge/condemn others?
- What needs to be dealt with to rise above the divisive conversations everyone else is having?

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