



General Topics :: Criticizing and Faultfinding

Criticizing and Faultfinding - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/21 9:09

Criticizing and Faultfinding

The average Christian is the most piercingly critical individual known. Criticism is one of the ordinary activities of people, but in the spiritual realm nothing is accomplished by it. The effect of criticism is the dividing up of the strengths of the one being criticized. The Holy Spirit is the only one in the proper position to criticize, and He alone is able to show what is wrong without hurting and wounding. **It is impossible to enter into fellowship with God when you are in a critical mood. Criticism serves to make you harsh, vindictive, and cruel, and leaves you with the soothing and flattering idea that you are somehow superior to others.** Jesus says that as His disciple you should cultivate a temperament that is never critical. This will not happen quickly but must be developed over a span of time. You must constantly beware of anything that causes you to think of yourself as a superior person.

There is no escaping the penetrating search of my life by Jesus. If I see the little speck in your eye, it means that I have a plank of timber in my own (see Matthew 7:3-5). Every wrong thing that I see in you, God finds in me. Every time I judge, I condemn myself (see Romans 2:17-24). Stop having a measuring stick for other people. There is always at least one more fact, which we know nothing about, in every person's situation. The first thing God does is to give us a thorough spiritual cleaning. After that, there is no possibility of pride remaining in us. I have never met a person I could despair of, or lose all hope for, after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.

We see where other people are failing, and then we take our discernment and turn it into comments of ridicule and criticism, instead of turning it into intercession on their behalf. God reveals this truth about others to us not through the sharpness of our minds but through the direct penetration of His Spirit. If we are not attentive, we will be completely unaware of the source of the discernment God has given us, becoming critical of others and forgetting that God says, ". . . he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death." Be careful that you don't become a hypocrite by spending all your time trying to get others right with God before you worship Him yourself.

If you have been shrewd in finding out the shortcomings of others, remember that will be exactly how you will be measured. The way you pay is the way life will pay you back. (With what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you Matt 7:2)

(-You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Ro. 2:1-)

Romans 2:1 applies it in even a more definite way by saying that the one who criticizes another is guilty of the very same thing. God looks not only at the act itself, but also at the possibility of committing it, which He sees by looking at our hearts. To begin with, we do not believe the statements of the Bible. For instance, do we really believe the statement that says we criticize in others the very things we are guilty of ourselves? The reason we see hypocrisy, deceit, and a lack of genuineness in others is that they are all in our own hearts. The greatest characteristic of a saint is humility, as evidenced by being able to say honestly and humbly, "Yes, all those, as well as other evils, would have been exhibited in me if it were not for the grace of God. Therefore, I have no right to judge."

Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). He went on to say, in effect, "If you do judge, you will be judged in exactly the same way." Who of us would dare to stand before God and say, "My God, judge me as I have judged others"? We have judged others as sinners— if God should judge us in the same way, we would be condemned to hell. Yet God judges us on the basis of the miraculous atonement by the Cross of Christ.

--Oswald Chambers

Jonathan Edwards, by the way, wrote a powerful convicting piece on evidences of spiritual pride and this is one of seven that he listed, fault-finding.

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He said, "Spiritual pride causes us to speak of other people's sins while humility disposes us either to be silent about them or to speak about them with grief."

He said, "The spiritually proud person shows that in finding fault with other saints, "They're low in grace, how cold and dead they are, how quick to discern and to notice their deficiencies."

And we can do that and sound so pious, so spiritual. "So and so- they're so cold; they're so dead." Is that a reflection of pride in our hearts?

He says, "Christian humility causes a person to take notice of everything that is good in others and make the best of it and to diminish their failings."

He said, "The truly humble Christian has so much to do at home and sees so much evil in his own heart that he's not apt to be very busy with other's hearts" - fault-finding.

Here is a great article called (<http://www.reviveourhearts.com/pdf/EvidencesOfPride.pdf>) 41 Evidences of Pride

I read this article this morning and really pondered on it, of what I was truly guilty of. I think it is important to not just skim over these but say "if I am guilty of this, I need to change."

Lord, search our hearts. If I have been critical, but in myself there is still pride (even spiritual pride), I am a hypocrite. Instead of focusing on others faults, help us to see our own faults and impress on us the urgency to work on them on them. Help us to walk humbly before You.

In His love, chanin

Re: Criticizing and Faultfinding - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2005/4/21 9:56

Quote:

moreofHim wrote:

Criticizing and Faultfinding

Instead of focusing on others faults, help us to see our own faults and impress on us the urgency to work on them on them.

I do understand we should not keep focused 100% of our time on others faults or be critical all the time your right! but as the verses instruct below Every believer has the obligation to test others by their fruits.

Matthew 7 passage carefully. It is not a comprehensive injunction against any judgment, just against the wrong kind of judgment. In fact, Every believer has the obligation to test others by their fruits. Matthew 7:15-20 says, Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

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Re: - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/21 10:30

Yes, we can test their fruits, how can we not if we have discernment- but wouldn't it be more beneficial to go to God first about it than use it is gossip? It also has to do with the motives of the heart.

Everyone will have their turn at the judgement seat. I want to spend my time making sure my fruit is good. I am responsible for my walk with the Lord, I am not responsible for someone elses walk with the Lord. Though I can pray and intercede for them.

Why is it that when we bring up the subject of criticizing, instead of first looking into our hearts and asking if we could be wrong (i have come from a very critical background- so I KNOW I have been wrong) why are we so quick to make excuses for why it's ok to judge and criticize.

I think if we would take all this to heart, we might be too busy trying to become more Christ-like and not have hardly any time for finding fault with others. At least that is what I hope for myself.

When we get to the judgement seat, I doubt the Lord will say "Chanin, you did a really good job there with your judging. You brought them down and exposed them. Yeah!" No, I am more fearful that He will be inspecting MY fruit.

Though there is a place for judging all things, it is not for gossip or light talk and humor. I think we have interpreted this many times in our own way so that we can justify our actions and words.

I want to keep my eyes focused straight ahead on Jesus. All of these other things, criticizing, faultfinding, etc... just gets our focus Off Jesus and following Him.

In His love, Chanin

edit: I encourage anyone that replies to first read (<http://www.reviveourhearts.com/pdf/EvidencesOfPride.pdf>) 4 1 Evidences of Pride and ponder them- then respond :-)

timing - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/21 10:53

Hi Chanin thanks once again.

Your timing is always greatly 'suspect' in the purest sense of the word, happily suspect :-)

Especially after the long rant just posted from yours truly. Will give this whole link a read again, seem to recall it.

But just wanted to parrot off Mr.Bill here with this in mind:

Quote:
-----or to speak about them with grief."

What jumps up is in how things "sound" especially in our writings here amongst ourselves. We can read them and it seems to be nothing more than criticism, ill intent, or even a needless bashing. At other times the tendencies are to 'soften' things to make them more palatable or even as a mask to give it a nice 'Christian' sense of being kind and not prideful. It's difficult to ascertain sometimes what or more like where these things are stemming from, but I pray that we don't have to feel compelled not to speak for the reason of being misunderstood...

Criticism or concern? Sometimes it is from the wrong motives and is just that, pride. And just as well if we do look at our own selves I don't know how any of us could ever open our mouths ever again, there is always something that reflects back unto ourselves. Couldn't an equal cop-out be to not say anything at all that could be misconstrued and the fear of just that, that the possibility of being misunderstood, the fear of man or worse that an idea of a 'badge' we wear because the rest of the world and the vast masses of Christianity is being misled and "we" know better...seems to come from the same smelly stew.

Never go away from here without a sense of concern that I may have spoken wrongly and a prayer that if I am off that it

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would be corrected or brought to light. "Who am I to say such things?"

Who am I...period.?!

There has certainly been times where the anger has risen up and playing around with the 'righteous indignation' is a bit like dynamite, we can fool ourselves by using it as a justification, I know I have before, one look at some of the BH ranting posts would show where I had gone off the rails. Just hope we can all keep a right grasp on things and always be ready to be quick to forgive and ready and willing to admit where we are wrong and apologize when we have been in the wrong...otherwise we have definitely missed it.

Re: timing, on: 2005/4/21 11:15

Once again, I concur with crsschk's post. Very good word, brother.

Many times people like myself get called on the carpet for "fault-finding" and criticizing. If I looked at other believers and pointed out their sins all the time, without ever dealing with mine, then I would be guilty. (And in my personal life off of this site, I probably am guilty of this from time to time)

However, I try and be very careful about what I discuss on here. I can only speak for myself, but when I discuss a heresy, or a false teacher, I think you will find that I try my best to remain focussed on the **teaching** more than the *teacher*. I have been very gracious to Benny Hinn as a man... and that's not easy to do! There are times when a teacher has publicly disgraced the name of God... and that needs to be discussed in a manner that brings healing and repentance.

There is a fine difference, as crsschk, pointed out between criticism and concern. It's an attitude, a heart matter. What may seem like criticism to some, may actually be righteous concern for other believers.

Krispy

Re: timing - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/21 11:24

Quote:
-----or to speak about them with grief

Hi Mikey! I think David Wilkerson would be an excellent example of one who "judges" things aright. You can tell his heart is grieved and he just wants his Lord to be glorified.

I have a very deep concern that SI not look like a tabloid newspaper. I know someone mentioned what message boards were for- but SI is different and for good reason. I think most of us here want to grow in Christ-likeness.

There are many people who may come to SI and they will "see" our fruit by the words we say (write). By our grace and truth, we may draw those in who may never have experienced these kinds of sermons or truth. (Even Catholics :)

The more "truth they hear/see, the more likely they will see error. Not always I am sure.

But, as you say, there is a difference between a Godly concern over the sheep and the glory of God-- and just judging, criticizing and faultfinding just for its own sake.

I am finding even in my own life, how important it is to show my children that it is better to walk humbly before God and to keep our comments to ourselves and between us and God.

I am simply amazed at how my oldest daughter can discern what is "not of Him" simply because we focus on what "IS of Him." Of course, when issues come up and she starts to discern, we discuss why but never in a "we are so much better or spiritual than they", "we" know the truth and they just don't get it".

It is a time to show that it is a grievous thing for the Lord and our heart must go out to those who don't know and practice

the truth by praying for them.-

Even as Moses prayed for the complaining Israelites in the wilderness. yes, they were wrong, yes, they were stubborn, but he cared about them and loved them enough to ask God to spare them.

I hope that we love those who we criticize enough to intercede for them and to care about them- for real! not just in words and being spiritually correct.

I am all too aware of hypocrites in the church. I hope that we are blameless before we criticize.

I don't ever want to be a hypocrite. God says He hates a hypocrite. That is one of my biggest fears. Lord, let me be found blameless- especially in this area!

In His love, Chanin

Re: Shared sentiment - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/21 12:06

Thanks again Chanin, of the many things here this:

Quote:
-----I have a very deep concern that SI not look like a tabloid newspaper. I know someone mentioned what message boards were for- but SI is different and for good reason. I think most of us here want to grow in Christ-likeness.

Had picked up on that thought earlier from the same comment and found what he said to be true yet with this hopeful difference, a want to grow. Which brings forth all kinds of struggle and challenges at times, to previously held constructs, certain traditions, 'camps' and so forth. But to be redundant it also is what makes it wonderfully possible to find some true unity in the Body without breaking off into another sect or denominational line. Still chuckle upon reflection of some comments made quite awhile back that "we" were 'obviously' pentecostal/charismatic as if this was all that easy to box us into. If there was any tag that I would welcome it would be just Bible believing followers of Jesus and with that, that everyone would feel welcome here, just be prepared to be challenged on what you may hold dear, because we do indeed care, it's why we are so vocal about it.

And about the tabloid, ah you hit that raw nerve there, something that likely many are tired of hearing me snivel about, just hope that there is some kind of balance and again the urge to explore. There is just so many great things in these pages, in these sermons, in all the sharing that goes forth from amongst the Brethren...

Those last couple of links Ron (Philologos) put up just a case in point or even this one below from you Chanin. There is no lacking in the sense of sharing and wanting to be of some help around here and for that I praise God.

Quick edit:

By the way Krispy, had you very much in mind earlier here my friend. It is a want of patience from us all, an asking for clarification and as I believe it was 'Angyl' who had made the aforementioned comment about what message boards were for, understanding that and the 'difference' around here, he is right in not jumping to conclusions, something hopefully we all are getting a little better at day by day. Thanks brother, your heart is shining through...

Re:, on: 2005/4/21 12:27

Thanks, more of Him for this post. I couldn't agree with you more. I am saddened that a website like this has turned into what it has. That is why I will no longer be participating in these forums. In the past I have referred people to this site, now I'm not sure I will be doing that anymore. You hit the nail on the head when you said if we have concern we need to go to God on behalf of those we are concerned with. Anything less than that is not Christ-like. Jesus demonstrated one thing at the cross, and that was forgiveness and mercy. I know I need it everyday and He is faithful to give it. I really agree with the Matthew 7 verse stating that in the manner we judge, we will be judged. I needed to hear that! Thanks! May the peace of the Lord be with you all!

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Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2005/4/21 17:48

I don't understand pij post, can someone help me out here I just got in from work been a hard day in the A/C Business "hot and humid" so I am somewhat brain dead. :-?

Re:, on: 2005/4/21 22:26

Quote:

-----I am saddened that a website like this has turned into what it has

Amen. I have felt the same way. As I have prayed for SermonIndex I have grown increasingly concerned.

Quote:

-----That is why I will no longer be participating in these forums

At this point I am considering the same thing. I am convinced that division is a great enemy of revival and unfortunately much of the conversation in the forums here is more divisive than edifying...

My hunger for revival grows every day...and I am truly grateful the sermons i have discovered here at sermonindex. However, my longing for revival is the very reason I feel so discouraged with this forum. I am convinced that the judging and criticizing of people is not of God.

Those who are zealous for truth are in danger of going to the extreme...and only adding to the division in Christ's church.

Ravenhill (in "Why Revival Tarries") says, "Beloved, let us put away all trifling. Let us forget denominational issues. Let us give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word..."

We are trifling when we should be praying. What an incredible resource this site is of sermons - wouldn't it be wonderful if it was a meeting place for prayer? If from this site people from all over the world began 'meeting' for prayer...

I am convinced that the divisiveness and trifling counters any work of revival.

I am sorry for being so bold (I hope I have not stepped out of place - please know that I deeply respect our administrator), but I believe this needs to be said. I too am a sinner...so feel free to pass over this post - who am i to say this? No one. Just someone who's hungry for revival.

Whether I leave or not I will continue to pray for SermonIndex and I will continue to meet with my brothers at 10 PST for prayer.

God blessings on everyone.

Stephen

Farewell To Thee!, on: 2005/4/21 22:38

Quote:

-----That is why I will no longer be participating in these forums

Wow, I am thinking strongly in that direction as well, just be like the rest that come to this site strictly an observer. And if I have anything to say, I would email that individual or PM, it's not worth the harassment if you say the wrong thing.

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Oops I shouldn't have wrote that much.

Take care

Karl

Re: Farewell To Thee! - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/21 23:31

Am also a bit concerned.

What exactly are you guy's alluding to specifically? Compared to the last couple of month's there... I am not following here.

Also, wouldn't it be better to try and be of some help?

?

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 0:43

Quote:

-----What exactly are you guy's alluding to specifically? Compared to the last couple of month's there... I am not following here.

Yes things have improved...like many here i was very concerned and began praying in earnest for sermonindex. However (and I can only speak for myself), the divisiveness that i am speaking of is more subtle. The subjects that are chosen; the desire to set ourselves against other groups...etc (of course this is merely my perception).

Quote:

-----Also, wouldn't it be better to try and be of some help?

Yes and no. Ideally yes...as a member of a church it is best to be of help. In this case I'm not sure - and praying about it. But I'm not sure help is wanted...the topics that interest are what concern me...that discussion seems so often to be focused on 'heresy' and so often targeting individuals with little more than criticism.

I imagine others will disagree with me...and that's ok. I will continue to pray about it - I've been known to be wrong before.

Please don't misunderstand me...I am so grateful for resource that Sermonindex is.

Re: Reading... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/22 0:54

Did anybody happen to read the link that was provided by Chanin at the beginning of this post?

That is not an accusation.

Quote:

-----I couldn't agree with you more. I am saddened that a website like this has turned into what it has. That is why I will no longer be participating in these forums. In the past I have referred people to this site, now I'm not sure I will be doing that anymore. You hit the nail on the head when you said if we have concern we need to go to God on behalf of those we are concerned with. Anything less than that is not Christ-like. Jesus demonstrated one thing at the cross, and that was forgiveness and mercy.

Well there is still a couple more things to take into consideration here brother. One is longevity, there are some here who have been with this site for a long time and some of these topics have a bit of history to them. Another is 'tone'(percieved) and a want of patience with each other. Certainly the forum has grown and is growing but a bit of exploring back throu

gh the many many posts here will show a wide range of thought as it pertains to this life. I wonder openly how much is being read and chewed on and if we are being good Bereans with everything...

To be challenged is not an affront to be attacked and a questioning of our particular reasoning is helpful if we will let it be. How else are we to learn? The mean spirited and divisive for the sake of being divisive does stem from a sense of pride and self-worth and there is no place for mere snipping and backbiting of one another.

Quote:
-----You hit the nail on the head when you said if we have concern we need to go to God on behalf of those we are concerned with. Any thing less than that is not Christ-like. Jesus demonstrated one thing at the cross, and that was forgiveness and mercy

A bit unsure how you may be referring that but it seems we must always go to extremes. Are we only hearing what we want to hear? And are we only going to apply the principle of 'love one another' when it's comfortable to do so? It does work out in the opposite direction, when you must confront things that are uncomfortable, it is much easier to apply that principle then especially when it goes against the grain of your particular make up.

There seems to be a danger in making assumptions in an either/or construct. One of the beauties of this ongoing discussion around here on so many different matters is the challenge to think deeply and to 'find out if these things are so'. Have learned so much, a great deal from the harder things expressed oftentimes than the more readily agreeable. Have been challenged on the idea of a false pride, a false humility, in softening things that ought not to be softened and just as well as toning down the rhetoric when it is but rhetoric, surely a long way to go and that is in truth, not in cliché.

We would have a hard way of explaining away so much from scripture when it comes to 'hard things'. Paul, Peter, Titus to name a few had strong admonitions towards a number of things, they didn't couch their words to please men nor to Lord it over anyone or exalt themselves, again it's not a badge to wear, perhaps a cross to bear.

I know there can be a penchant toward comparing ourselves with ourselves, that we ought not do and just as well towards measuring our response by a siding with a particular apostle... *Well, Paul was harsh about...* But he also grieved over the things he had to say oftentimes. There has to be a balance to all this and indeed a searching of ourselves as if in a mirror...

Mat 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Mat 7:5 Thou hypocrite, **first** cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **then** shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Mat 7:3 - And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye?.... By "mote" is meant, any little bit of straw, or small splinter of wood, that flies into the eye, and does it damage, hinders its sight, and gives it pain; and designs little sins, comparatively speaking, such as youthful follies, human frailties, and infirmities, inadvertencies and imprudencies; which may be said to be light faults, in comparison of others: and though not to be vindicated, nor continued in, yet not to be severely looked upon and chastised. To scrutinize diligently into, aggravate, dwell upon, and sharply reprove the lighter faults of others, is a conduct, which is here inveighed against, and condemned by Christ; and more especially, when it may be said with the greatest truth and justice to such,

but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye: by the "beam" is meant, greater sins, grosser abominations, and such as were more peculiar to the Pharisees; as pride, arrogance, a vain opinion of themselves, confidence in their own righteousness, hypocrisy, covetousness, and iniquity; things they did not advert to in themselves, when they loudly exclaimed against lesser evils in others. Such men must be of all persons inexcusable, who condemn that in others, which either they themselves do, or what is abundantly worse.

John Gill

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Re: time out - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/4/22 1:14

After reading the article on pride I can only conclude that I am prideful. It's really awful.

Quote:
-----Thanks, more of Him for this post. I couldn't agree with you more. I am saddened that a website like this has turned into what it has. That is why I will no longer be participating in these forums.

Amen. I have felt the same way. As I have prayed for SermonIndex I have grown increasingly concerned.

Regarding self-expulsion from SI, I think the real answer might just be some time away. A single week did the trick for me...I found that my regard for the people in here is more enduring than my regard for whatever important opinion or position I was concerned about. Even though most of us are faceless to one another, I actually care about the people in here! I'm thankful that people don't take me too serious.

Writing is much more volatile than speaking because we are liable to project our own fragile emotions onto each other's words. I think any forum, not just SI, is going to be like the inside of a nuclear reactor. Peoples' emotions are being split open by the words that are bouncing around in these walls...then in turn more words are written and more emotions are split. Now and then the whole thing threatens to overheat unless it is moderated by some intervening person who brings stability to the mixture. In normal face to face conversations, things have a harder time heating up because we can read each other much more readily.

Considering this, I think SI is a fairly healthy place. I would kindly suggest taking a week off before banning yourself! However if you feel it is right for you to leave then don't leave angry. Go with God!

Blessings

please do - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/22 1:20

Hey Stephen,

Quote:
-----But I'm not sure help is wanted...

Help wanted! Apply here! :-)

I do understand your sentiments and know that certainly many and Greg especially appreciate your prayers for this place. We could use some balance, there is so much here to learn and grow from, so many different areas to explore, certainly much that is edifying.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/4/22 1:26

Quote:
-----Writing is much more volatile than speaking

Thanks Mike,

If that isn't the truth...
All this, well said.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2005/4/22 1:33

I feel any forum anywhere of any type unless you actually know the person and have spoken with them personally, you can't even begin to really figure out anyone's post or their heart or if it is just a good healthy debate or actually criticizing. I will be honest with you I left my recent Bible Study because of the debates although not heated I just "personally" don't like getting into even warm debates over the Word of God, yes I miss it very much but I felt it was not healthy for my spirit for a person between the milk and meat so I made the decision to leave. I personally have corresponded in personal messages to many in this forum even the ones that when I first joined were, I thought critical and found them to be good folks and all they sincerely want to do is bring certain things out of the dark into the light, and I am ok with that because I don't feel this is being critical that maybe God does have this person here for this reason and some of us that may be in the dark about certain things and can be made aware. I Love this place and I personally feel that God has ministered to me and many others here through many different people "in many different ways" what we all must remember is Satan is going to keep the stick stirring here, that is his job and he does his job very well "believe me" and the only way to defeat him is to keep the debates healthy, and if for some reason you feel that some post is getting critical, I would just not participate in it and maybe if anything kick back and just read it then if you disagree you have posted nothing so that keep you free and out of the fire and keeps old slue foot at bay. I feel God wants everyone that is here "HERE" or you would have never found this place, so are we going to let old Satan defeat us by cutting and running? or are we the children of the most High God? and stay and spread the good news and just put on the full armor of God, because Satan has already been defeated at the Cross.

Re: - posted by jouko (), on: 2005/4/22 6:06

Sometimes it hurts if someone is right about an issue that is close at heart, but that is what growing is all about. If we never have a disagreement on anything, and that is how I see these things at SI, we would be in a perfect place. If everybody was exactly the same in appearance, mindset, etc. this would be a perfect place. I would have liked to hear Peter and Paul "disagree", maybe most of us would have disagreed with one of them, or ?? If you have been annoyed, hurt, pricked, or downright angry at any of my comments please feel free to send me an e-mail or a PM or blast me on this page, but as MrBillPro writes, don't run, you'll just find it staring you straight in the face somewhere else. If that happens, please consider, maybe you yourself was the problem.

Don't let anger or any of its cousins get hold of you nor grow inside, it tends to make one blind.

Feel free to disagree. With blessings.

jouko

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 7:35

Since I seem to be a bit of a lightning rod in this place at times, I guess I should chime in here some...

As stated earlier, if you go back thru the posts you will notice (if you want to notice), I have come against false **doctrines**, and not necessarily false teachers. We are commanded by scripture to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jud 1:3.

This is not a suggestion. This is an exhortation. But in this day and time of the church, because of a lack of separation (2 Co 6:17) we have seen the flood gates opened for all kinds of strange doctrines to come into the church. Some are subtle little doctrines, some are gross heresy.

Some say "well, doctrine is hardly worth fighting over... we should love one another". I disagree and so does scripture when it exhorts us to "**earnestly** contend for the faith.

This should not be construed as fighting in a mean spirited way. That's not what Paul meant. I personally believe that if there is gross heresy going on, we should expose it. If the practitioner of the heresy refuses to listen... then we are to shake the dust off our shoes... and **separate** from them. (Mat 10:14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.)

But what doctrines should we separate from? Tongues? Well, let me put it to you this way... I will fellowship with Charismatics to a certain extent. I know many who are saved. I was one when I was first saved. However, I rejected most Charismatic doctrines. I personally believe the gift of tongues exists today... but not in the fashion we see it expressed 90% of the time today. But I know many who practice it, but they are saved. However, I will not sit under Charismatic teacher. Because of tongues? No... because of some of the other heresies that often times are part and parcel of a Charismatic teacher.

I know many saved people who use modern versions. I will certainly fellowship with them as well... but I will not sit under a teacher who teaches out a modern version. But I know without a doubt many true believers in Christ use them. I'm not judging their salvation.

BUT... if anyone is still reading this... the doctrines that we should completely and wholly separate from are doctrines that twist the doctrine of salvation. And this is probably what is causing this thread right here.

Many people have an emotional response to the death of John Paul II. I have spoken out against the Catholic Church in recent days. It's been in the spotlight, and so what better time to discuss it? I have been criticized for doing so. But the Catholic Church is no church at all... and it does not teach the scriptural doctrine of salvation one iota. And anyone who says they do, I have to wonder if they even know the first thing about the RCC. Is this a criticism of people? NO! It's a criticism of an institution.

Anyone who reads the Catholic Catechism, the Council of Trent, Vatican II, and the writings of John Paul II can not in any way come away from it believing the Catholic Church is "just another denomination".

You may disagree with me... and that's ok. It doesn't hurt my feelings. But this is an incredible conviction that I have. I see that we are in the end times... and we are told that in the end times many many people will be seduced and deceived.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

We see this coming to fruition in the church today. If someone can not see this... they must be blind. So people like myself research different "sects" doctrines, and issue warnings.

In this day of hyper-sensitivity and political correctness... warnings about such groups is considered "hateful" by many.

We're told we're judging, and that we ought not to judge. (Interesting that we get judged as being hateful.) But what does scripture say about judging?

1Co 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1Co 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

1Co 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

1Co 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

1Co 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

We should judge what we are being taught. We should judge the teachings of those who come to us preaching another gospel (the RCC). We should judge everything against the Word of God.

What we should not judge is our **brothers**. Music is a good example. Some believe God uses rock music. Some believe He doesn't. While I do have some issues with CCM from the standpoint of ecumenism and secular ownership of every Christian music label... I will not judge anyone who listens to CCM. And I will not judge anyone who is convicted that it's all of the devil.

We can not judge someone's salvation. We can question it privately to that person if we do not see any fruit and they have sin in their life... but the motivation should always be to see them either saved or restored... whichever the case may be.

So ... to end this epistle :-P ... to those who wish to leave, we can't stop you. But I would like to ask that instead of being offended by the warnings that are issued on this site about the RCC, WOF, or whatever... judge our words to see if what we say is true.

For instance... on three different threads about the RCC I spoke out strongly (but not nearly as strong as Charles Spurgeon

General Topics :: Criticizing and Faultfinding

on did 100 years ago!), and some came to it's defense. So I posted the anathemas of the Council of Trent and asked everyone to read it, and then defend the RCC's teachings. **The threads died!** I have never gotten a response after that. I can only conclude two things... no one can defend it after they read that, or no one read it and just went away mad.

People... we do need to judge. But judge what we say. Judge what your taught. We all have Bibles. It's there to help us judge what we hear.

Too many times people dont want to discuss what is being warned about... they just want to shout "you're mean!" or "you offended me". Dont get offended... weigh what I say and see if I'm right or wrong. I've been corrected on this website several times. I didnt get offended... I rejoiced that God revealed yet again another truth into my life.

Krispy

Re: on: 2005/4/22 8:43

Gal 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Re: Good Advice, on: 2005/4/22 10:02

Compton wrote:

Quote:

-----Regarding self-expulsion from SI, I think the real answer might just be some time away. A single week did the trick for me-----

That is the best advice I have seen here yet.

Thanks

Karl

Re: - posted by DezCall (), on: 2005/4/22 10:02

I'm so sorry for interrupting this thread with my response to Krispy...I didn't read the entire thread, only read his post quickly. The thoughts shared here are so valuable and true...I'm really, really sorry for making this post. It just shows once again that I shouldn't be making a "quick" post...it shouldn't be about making my statement, but sharing the precious words of God, so that we all may be directed to Christ alone...

I didn't delete the post, because I recall that Greg said something about that some while ago. I did leave out a few sentences though.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8)

May the Lord be honored throughout SI and our own lives! A work in progress, Paul

Quote:

-----So I posted the anathemas of the Council of Trent and asked everyone to read it, and then defend the RCC's teachings. The thread died! I have never gotten a response after that. I can only conclude two things... no one can defend it after they read that, or no one read it and just went away mad.-----

Could you send me the link, brother? I'm lost in the numerous threads here. Can't see the trees through the forest. I'm rather busy right now, but I sure would love to read that.

General Topics :: Criticizing and Faultfinding

I myself live within a "RCC Empire" here in the Netherlands. I'm really saddened by the fact that friends and other people relate Christianity to the Roman Catholic Church. Two days ago a guy came up to me and said: "Congratulations". I didn't get it, but he continued: "yeah, with the pope, man!"...that made me laugh and cry at the same time.

May we be filled with the true love of God, through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). **May the true compassion of Jesus fill our hearts and minds for all the people in this world..."for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph 6:12)**

Could you PM me that link? Then I can't lose it anymore. Thanks.

Your brother, Paul

Re: Farewell To Thee!, on: 2005/4/22 10:08

Firstly, thank you Chanin for your post. Faultfinding is something God is dealing with in my life and has been for some time.

Quote:
-----Jesus says that as His disciple you should cultivate a temperament that is never critical. This will not happen quickly but must be developed over a span of time. You must constantly beware of anything that causes you to think of yourself as a superior person.

Exactly....over a span of time.Looking back i know i am improving with God changing me, moulding me everyday. Second, if i find myself judging and faultfinding with someone say at church(which i do)or vise versa, then should i then completely stop talking to them and just 'observe' them from afar? NO! You wouldn't think of it. You still talk to that person and yet pray for them and yourself at the same time.That person is a brother/sister, you wouldn't dream of ignoring them because they or yourself were always faultfinding. So is it not the same with our brothers and sisters here on sermonindex?

Just a thought.

In His love, Geraldine

:-)

Re: - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/22 11:19

Well, I had a big long post and it accidently got erased. :(

In short I would like to say that i am disappointed. I have never wanted to leave SI because I was disappointed. I have wanted to leave because I felt I had been offended-- but I have grown way past that. Thank the Lord for His ways!

But I am growing weary of all this. I have watched from afar for the last couple of months and it just saddens me.

I could go to a regular church and hear all of this kind of talk. I could go to any church function, women's group and hear all kinds of gossip and "who's doing this and who's doing that".

I came away from that because of all these things. These things that were not of Christ. I want to glorify God with my speech, my writing, my fellowship.

The way some are defending the right to judge, it seems as this is the main point of our faith.

Yes, we are called to judge and "discern", but that is certainly NOT our number one priority or even close to it.

What are our main priorities?:

1.And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

2.'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **There is no other commandment greater than these."**

Everyone who frequents here and hopefully listens to some sermons knows that even the sermons expose false teaching. The TRUTH exposes false teaching.

It does not need to be a clanging cymbal.

I pray that the Lord's will will be done here at SI. That HE alone will be glorified- that the work He started here in growing His body in the grace and knowledge of Him, will continue. I pray that people who come here will see something different, a Christlikeness, a light in the dark world- even in "christianity". I pray that people will come here and have revival start in their own hearts. That we will all grow in humility.

I support SI and Greg. My heart is very concerned when i see things going the way they have.

May all pride be crushed and may the humility of Jesus reign here.

In His love, chanin

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2005/4/22 11:49

Quote:

moreofHim wrote:
I could go to a regular church and hear all of this kind of talk. I could go to any church function, women's group and hear all kinds of gossip and "who's doing this and who's doing that".

There is not a place far enough on this earth were you can go to get away from this, only in Heaven will we be safe from this. :-)

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 11:57

You should consider that some may be called to be watchmen. Guards on the wall.

I dont see the gossip you're talking about. Exposing false teachings and discussing different things that are happening in the church... good or bad... is not gossip.

Gossip is defined as such:

1. Rumor or talk of a personal, sensational, or intimate nature.
2. A person who habitually spreads intimate or private rumors or facts.
3. Trivial, chatty talk or writing.

A **rumor** is defined as such:

1. A piece of unverified information of uncertain origin usually spread by word of mouth.
2. Unverified information received from another; hearsay.

I'm really not trying to be argumenative here... but you're accusing some here of gossip, which in essence is spreading rumors.

Discussing false doctrines is hardly either one of those things.

You're calling people clanging cymbles, which eludes to 1 Corinthians 13:1&2. We who discuss false doctrines have not love?

General Topics :: Criticizing and Faultfinding

Channin, I have been challenged and blessed by your posts on this site, and I sincerely hope that you do not leave. However, should you stay, I believe you need to understand that all you know of any of us is what we write here. You don't see us with our children or spouses. You don't see us in our fellowships. You don't see us involved in whatever ministries we've been called to. You don't know how each person here effects (or doesn't effect) the world for Christ.

In the end... these are words. If someone annoys you... ignore them. I can think of one person on here who I have learned to ignore on a regular basis. I used to let that person bother me. I don't anymore. Why? I shook the dust of my shoes.

No one forces you to read every thread on here. I don't. Pick and choose your battles. Some hills are worth dying on... so me are not.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 12:19

I said what I said in my last post because in the church I attend there are about 30 of us and we are mostly all related to each other so I have no fellowship with anyone my own age. My husband's parents are the pastors and my sister-in-law's husband is associate pastor! It can get very hard there for me yet I feel it's where I'm supposed to be ...for now. I cannot tell you how many times I have been soooooo hurt by some of the people in my church yet I have also unintentionally offended maybe even hurt others. I don't think there's a church in England where there's complete unity and absolutely no gossiping. If there is can someone tell me about it?

;-)

There has been so much good from SI and I pray God will continue to use this site (and the forum) to bless all who use it.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2005/4/22 12:33

Quote:

geraldine wrote: There has been so much good from SI and I pray God will continue to use this site (and the forum) to bless all who use it.

Amen! Likewise. :-)

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 13:43

If a person is looking for a perfect church, rest assured that when they find it... their own imperfection will mess it up.

Krispy

Re: - posted by mloaks, on: 2005/4/22 14:21

Yep.

Nor is there a perfect website. This one is great. Take a week off...

I think we carry on like Christ's disciples, myself. Rivalries, confusion, greed, misunderstanding: Peter, Thomas, and Andrew, all those blokes are a model...

General Topics :: Criticizing and Faultfinding

Re:, on: 2005/4/22 15:29

Here is a good sermon for those who do not understand why some of us spend time trying to expose error in the church.

..

I ask you to give it a listen and see if this doesnt clear up some misunderstandings.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?currSection=sermonstopic&sermonID=422059647>

Krispy

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/4/23 18:42

Quote:

-----Here is a good sermon for those who do not understand why some of us spend time trying to expose error in the church...

Honestly, I have heard all I can possibly take.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/4/23 18:49

Quote:

-----You should consider that some may be called to be watchmen. Guards on the wall.

Watchman are part of the prophetic offices of the Kingdom of God. David Wilkerson comes to mind. We know that there are errors in these camps and we know the extent of that error. Many of us simply cannot tolerate a steady diet of expressing our faith by slamming them and others in error. It becomes almost the biting and devouring spoke of in Galatians. Our spiritual life must be charged by the Holy Spirit- we cannot allow our zeal for God to be continually fueled by hatred for certain heretical groups. This is a deadly elixir that poisons our spirit. We need BALANCE. These things of late are way out of balance.

Re:, on: 2005/4/23 19:00

Quote:

-----Honestly, I have heard all I can possibly take.

Very well, brother. I'll tip my hat...

Krispy