

**General Topics :: A spirit reflecting Christ**

**A spirit reflecting Christ - posted by mama27, on: 2016/8/16 11:44**

I just wanted to encourage a spirit of Christlikeness in our posting as others have done in the past. I have seen recently, particularly on the Sipping Saints, John MacArthur on alcohol, and Serious Call to Holiness threads, a spirit of contention. We are human. It is so easy to do. But there may be many who are reading these postings around the world who are not believers. It is not honoring to the Lord we claim to serve and follow. In many areas of doctrine, you can find good and learned men and women, even godly men and women on different sides of an issue. We may strongly believe our own position is given by God, we may present it with passion, but it should not be with condemnation or derision toward those on the other side.

My own children, who were raised on the Bible, have pointed out (they are adults now) that there seem to be either sins of behavior or sins of attitude which differ in individuals according to their personality. Those of us who would never be caught with a drink in our hand or in sins of a sexual or sensual nature, may be the most vile on the inside in our prideful, looking down our nose on others. We are all sinners in the process of sanctification once we are saved. Let us just be very careful before we post that our spirit is right and honoring to God, even if we disagree.

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ, on: 2016/8/16 11:47**

Amen, mama27.

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/8/16 12:04**

Good word Sister!  
And a timely admonition:)

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ - posted by forrests (), on: 2016/8/16 12:27**

Amen sister.

Perhaps some may benefit from reading the (John Wesley) sermon I shared in this thread: [https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=57661&forum=34](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=57661&forum=34)

It's called "Catholic Spirit - Sermon 39", and it is on love and unity in Christ in spite of (or rather, irrespective of) doctrinal and practical particulars.

Here is the link: <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-39-catholic-spirit/>

I found it to be a blessing.

Thanks again for sharing, sister!

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/8/16 12:59**

I remember back before I became a Christian that I indulged the flesh in every way. One day at work a woman with a long dress and her hair in a bun came up to me with a snarl on her face and looked at me with anger, telling me I was going to hell. My impression was that this woman was truly miserable as a Christian, and at least I was having a good time on my way to hell.

It was around that time that I attended a meeting with some Spirit filled Catholics

that were filled with the love of God, and the priest began to share on having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I was saved, filled with the Spirit, and began to follow Jesus and devour the Word. The Holy Spirit began to deal with me with the things in my life that were not pleasing to Him. I am so glad that I did not come in the legalistic way, but allowed the Lord to have His way, and was taught by the Holy Spirit that God's main purpose for my life was to be like Jesus, and the only way that I was going to get there was to die to self, and allow Christ to live in me by being filled and led by the Holy Spirit.

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2016/8/16 19:06**

Excellent post, thanks for the encouragement!

I have found that very few times that I get involved in controversy here does it come out for my good. I either end up thinking more of myself than I should or I partake of a contentious spirit. Also, it often will draw me away from what is most important and I then dwell on secondary things.

That's not to say that we shouldn't stand boldly for what we are convinced of as truth; but we certainly do need to be careful of losing the Christlike spirit of humility, meekness, patience, and surrender to God's will.

Thanks again for your timely post mama, and the Lord bless you and those precious children of yours; we continue to pray for them and you.

In Christ,

**Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2016/8/16 21:12**

I'm touched, Ron that you would still be praying. It is almost 6 long years since I first requested prayer for my prodigals. Perhaps if I had exuded a more Christlike spirit when they were growing up, and worried less about "doing it right", they would see Jesus in all His beauty and holiness rather than a list of rules. Thank you ever so much for your prayers!

**Re: - posted by Jasmine, on: 2016/8/17 4:34**

@mama27 (couldn't let this pass)

"Perhaps if I had exuded more of a Christ like spirit..."

You're breaking my heart...As the mother of a prodigal I went through the self shaming and self blaming for years. You spoke almost verbatim what I used to say in my heart. God did a very deep healing on me as well as gave me understanding with peace. I pray that He does the same for you. He knows how to bring them to Himself. God is the lifter of your head sister please stay encouraged people are praying...

**Re: A spirit reflecting Christ, on: 2016/8/17 8:55**

Thank you for this reminder, we must avoid a spirit of contention. I have observed though that to an outsider, one not participating in a particular discussion, that almost all spirited debates on discussion forums appear to be contentious. I have seen some of these debates turn into nasty name calling and that is despicable. But for the most part these discussions are self regulating and people seem to be working things out among themselves.

What I do observe on SI forums is a push back in almost every discussion and if you are easily offended you will be tempted to "take your bat and ball and go home". But honestly I think push back is a good thing. When people challenge our thinking we can learn from them and learn to articulate our thoughts better. We can even learn how to get along

with others in these spirited debates. It is a good thing. But it quickly becomes a bad thing when we get offended and if we were all honest that can happen to us easily.

Personally I have much to learn from you all on these forums and I thank God for what God has built here through our brother Greg and others. May He continue to have His preeminence in our lives and help us to avoid contention and strife and to season our words with grace. On this last point I have much to learn.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/8/17 9:39**

Amen, brother Mark.

I agree with what you said. We usually are offended when we post something maybe thinking our point of view is THE correct one and not expecting anyone to differ from us :)

It really is the HOW of when we differ that is important, that we always post with gentleness and respect and consider our brothers and sisters as more important than ourselves.

Iron sharpens iron...:)

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/8/17 10:00**

...another thing.

Some of us, like myself, are relatively new to the forum, and not realizing that some members have a "history" with (against) each other, we get caught in the crossfire :)