

CONDUCT



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“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8.

It simply amazes me how many responses I get from people asking if it is possible to live the righteous, holy, sinless, perfect life of Christ. They will go to great lengths to quote the texts that show we have all been sinners. Then they ask, “How can we be perfect when the Bible says we have all been sinners?”

What amazes me is the fact that all these people who claim to be Christians refuse to listen to what Jesus says. The Bible does teach that we HAVE (past tense) been sinners. That is a correct statement. But that is all it is. Nowhere in the whole Bible will you find one verse that states that we must remain sinners.

What the Bible teaches emphatically is that even though we used to be, or have been, or may still be sinners, we DO NOT HAVE TO REMAIN IN THAT SICK CONDITION. Jesus came to do away with sin in our mortal bodies. Romans 6:6, 12, 13. The whole Bible is a treatise on how to stop sinning and how to become holy, sinless and perfect, right now, in the power of Jesus.

So how do we do that? “Be alert and think straight. Put all your hope in how kind God will be to you when Jesus Christ appears. Behave like obedient children. Don't let your lives be controlled by your desires, as they used to be. Always live as God's holy people should, because God is the one who chose you, and he is holy. That's why the Scriptures say, ‘I am the holy God, and you must be holy too.’” 1 Peter 1:13-16

Think about it. The reason you and I ended up in prison is

throat and cut off your head. They have made a commitment to force the world to accept Allah as the one and only God. Those who do not accept their god will be cut to pieces, mutilated and tortured.

The next time you hear your pastor, your church, your friend or anybody talk about, “all we need is love”, watch out! What love is he/she talking about? The love of “my rights”, “you must believe as I believe”, or the love of Jesus who humbled Himself and served others and allowed others to walk all over His rights. That is the only love that will go to heaven.

get across to us since the beginning of time. To Cain He said, “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” Genesis 4:7. In the New Testament He said, “...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...” Philippians 2:12. He knew that “love” would never compensate for work. Only by the power of the Love of God through our hard work would we, God’s power with our power, be able to change the DNA genetic code of sin in our lives.

“Bygren and other scientists have now amassed historical evidence suggesting that powerful environmental conditions (near death from starvation, for instance) can somehow leave an imprint on the genetic material in eggs and sperm. These genetic imprints can short-circuit evolution and pass along new traits in a single generation.” Why Your DNA Isn’t Your Destiny, By John Cloud Wednesday, Time Magazine, Jan. 06, 2010.

By the way, God’s love never fails, but He does withdraw it. “‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty.” “The flock detested Me, and I grew weary of them and said, ‘I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.’” Zechariah 7:13; 11:8, 9. Your choice! Obey and receive God’s never failing love, or disobey and step outside of God’s never failing love.

However, God knows that we need a law of principles so we understand what “love” is. Without the true love of Jesus in the heart, man must be ruled by laws. Since the 1960’s when the churches down-played the Ten Commandments and became infatuated by the “you’re OK, I’m OK” and the “Saved by Grace” philosophy, the laws of the land have more than tripled. With the Law of God in the heart, you don’t need so many laws of man. Without the Law of love in the heart (Ten Commandments), you need more and more laws and regulations to control the wicked heart of man.

Militant Islamics also claim to love God. They run around claiming that Allah is kind and merciful while they slit your

because we were thinking about whatever it was that got us into prison. If we had not been thinking about that which put us in, then we would not have been in that position and would not have been put in prison. Wow, what a mouthful. But don’t you see? By beholding we become changed!!!

(Those of you who have not been to prison, don’t pat yourselves on the back just yet. Your sins are even greater since you don’t even recognize them as sins. Just because your sin is acceptable by society, doesn’t mean it is acceptable with God.)

Let’s take a look at some who thought wrong. In Acts 8:22 Peter tells Simon, who had been baptized into the church, “Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps He will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.”

Get it? The thought was what caused the trouble. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:3, “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.” There it is again, our thoughts. That is why James is so point blank about this. He says, “But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire (thoughts), he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire (thoughts) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” James 1:14, 15.

This is why God has given us the Bible. Instead of putting our minds on the things of this world and all the junk that is going on in it, let’s put our minds and thoughts on Jesus and on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Wow, what a difference that would make in our lives.

Hebrews 3:1 says the same thing, “Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus...”. As we fix our thoughts on Jesus, our attitude will be the same as that of Jesus. He had perfect love. What is love? First of all, we learned earlier in our study that love is the Ten Commandments. We would not know what love truly was without the Ten Commandments to point it out. But now, let’s go even deeper and see how those Ten Commandments can be put into practice

in a more practical, everyday environment.

1 Corinthians 13 is the chapter on Love and how to demonstrate it in our daily lives. Most of us will not go out and physically murder someone. Most of us will not go out and commit adultery. Most of us do not break the Ten Commandments in their grossest behavior. However, it is in the little things that we need to practice the keeping of the Ten Commandments. So let's take a look at what we can do in our everyday life.

Love is Patient



Now that's a toughie. When was the last time you were "patient"? Did you see something that you did not like and jumped in to change it? Did you hear something that disagreed with your way of thinking and jumped in to correct it? Did you wait around to listen to the other person's opinion? Or did you

turn and leave in an impatient manner? Are you patient with those who just irritate the &%\$#@ out of you? Boy, do we need a lot of work on that one. What does patience have to do with the Ten Commandments? Try stealing. You could have waited patiently until you earned it instead of stealing it. Or, you could be stealing that person's dignity by not listening to his/her point of view, etc. Can you think of any other commands you could be breaking?

What about road-rage? Driving can try anyone's patience. Try driving the speed limit and watch all the "patient" drivers behind you. Just try driving the speed limit with passengers. Patience! Wow, how hard to live the Christian life. We have so abused the term "Christian" that it has become anything we want it to be. We could even say, "That was a Christian killing". Do we ever stop to actually think?

I am sure you have all heard the "prayer", "Lord give me

But you say, "When Jesus comes, He will change me and force me to be good in heaven. I won't want to be a sinner there." I'm afraid not, my friend. You see, there is no police force in Heaven. God's government is not run by force. There is not one police officer in Heaven. Not one jail cell. Not one speed limit. Not one building code. Not one government regulation. Nope, just ten simple commandments: the Covenant of Love. That is all a righteous person needs. If God could force you to be good in heaven, He would do it here on earth.

You see, the only people Jesus can take to Heaven are those who are living the Heavenly life right now. If you are not, voluntarily, living the Heavenly life now, you won't live it in Heaven. Why? Because salvation and righteous living is a choice. You can live it now, if you want to. If you don't want to, you won't be. And if you aren't now, you won't then. God cannot force you into righteousness. Laws are only necessary to keep the wicked heart under control. Since there will be no wicked hearts in Heaven, there will be no need for laws or law enforcement. All who are in Heaven will be there voluntarily. They will be there because they love God's law and want to keep it - all of it from the heart.

Some may argue that they are what they are because of their genes or genetic code. That it would be un-Christ-like to condemn them or destroy them for "being born that way". I believe that medical science will discover that genes are not set, but motivated. Genes can be changed, i.e. switched on or off, become dominant or dormant. How is this possible? The Bible tells us how.

God, who created us, created genes to be motivated by our behavior and our thinking. "For as the thoughts of his heart are, so is he..." Proverbs 23:7 These patterns of thought which then create patterns of behavior would then be transmitted "...to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my Commandments." Exodus 20:5, 6.

Now we understand the concept of what God has been trying to

This takes us back to Philippians 4:8, “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Yet we think that doesn’t apply to us. We go to a movie, or watch a video, DVD or TV. We listen to certain music and think that we can handle this. We think that we are above the admonition given in the Bible and that we are stronger than God. And then we wonder why our lives are so filled with grief and sorrow. Why our emotional state is battered and depressed. It is because we are not listening to Jesus. We are on Satan’s ground and he is beating us up. It is time to get off his ground and follow Jesus into heaven. Get out of the mud and stand on the Rock. That is where Jesus is. You can’t get to heaven if you don’t follow Jesus.

Love delights in the truth. If your church, denomination, minister, friend, music, video, TV programs are not teaching you positive truth that will make you perfect in Christ, TURN THEM OFF! Your life will be richer and happier if you will follow Jesus in every aspect of your life.

Love Never Fails

Does that mean you are going to heaven because God loves you and His love never fails? Nope. His love never fails, but unless you have His love, you are not going to heaven. His love cannot get you into heaven. It can only provide you with the way to Heaven. But you must follow that Way. That Way is the Way of Love. Love is the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 John 1:6). We have just seen how those Ten Commandments are to be fulfilled in every detail of our lives. They never fail.

No doubt about it, it is work. Keeping our eyes on Jesus is very hard work. The devil has invented more ways than ever before imaginable for keeping your eyes off what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy. The sad fact is, we feel right at home with most of his inventions.

patience, and give it to me right now!” So few are going to heaven. Jesus has made that very plain. Are you starting to get the picture? Christianity isn’t what you think it is, it is what God says it is. Are you living up to what God says you must be?

LOVE IS KIND



“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42.

Kind? Yep, kind!! Are you kind to people? Do you give of yourself?

Things are nice. Money is nice. But those are not the kindnesses that Paul is talking about. The devil gives things. Jesus gave of Himself in kindness and acts of personal attention. Kind. Wow, what a concept. Taking the time out of your busy schedule to actually sit down with someone and be kind to them, listening to them and be willing to watch and enjoy what they are doing. Kind. When was the last time you were kind to someone as Jesus was?

What does kindness have to do with the Ten Commandments? Try Coveting. Maybe you are coveting the time that you need to be giving to someone else. Oh you say, I’m too busy with choir practice, or church activities. Maybe you are too much like Martha (Luke 10:38-42) and need to be more like Mary. When was the last time you MADE the time to sit with Jesus? Your works will not get you into heaven. Drop out of choir and church activities and find time to be kind to someone and be with Jesus. What you do to others you do to Jesus.

LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

For those in prison, to be envious is hard not to do. When you have nothing, and you see an inmate with a locker full of food, it is hard not to envy. Envy and coveting go hand in hand. We envy what others have. We covet what they have. Then we steal and kill for what they have. That is why Paul says, “I have learned to be **content** whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” Philippians 4:11, 12.

Paul was talking to his young friend Timothy. He wanted to make sure that Timothy would be properly instructed in this matter. To Timothy, Paul said, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.” 1 Timothy 6:6-9. “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...”. Hebrews 13:5.



Another problem with envy is it tends to produce gossip. You know how it goes, you confide in a “friend” some information that you want to share, but want it kept confidential. Later on your “friend” becomes envious of you for some reason and then betrays your confidence. “Gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.” Proverbs 11:13.

Talking about wicked people, Paul says, “They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy (there is that word envy), murder, strife, de-

front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.” 1 Corinthians 6:6-8.

“Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.” 2 Samuel 14:14.

Did you understand that text? That is our example. If you think someone has done wrong to you or your family, etc., then it is your duty to do all in your power to bring that person back into fellowship so he will “not remain estranged”. That is true Christianity. If you are not doing that for others, God can not do that for you, and you will spend eternity “estranged” from God. It is called everlasting death.

Please surrender your pride, hate, hurt and all sin and let the love of Jesus into your heart. Forgive. Forgive. Forgive. That is the only way we will be forgiven by God.

Love Does Not Delight in Evil, But Rejoices With the Truth

How often we walk around looking at the bad in things and people. How often we find ourselves thinking about the negatives of life. How many “Christians” are full of conspiracy theories. Always digging for the dirt in others, the church or something else. Why? What good does it do? Love won’t do that. Love will rejoice with the truth, positive truth, not negative truth. This affects most of what we do. What music do you listen to? What programs do you watch on TV? What video tapes, DVD’s or movies do you watch? What books do you read? What conversations are you involved with?

It is time to become like Jesus and to surrender to the Love of Jesus. Treat all men: the wicked, the evil, the derelict, the murderer, gays, the child molester and all those who are not of your caliber, with the same love and respect that you would want to be treated by Jesus. You may think you are better and that you deserve to be treated better by God. You're not. In God's eyes, you are worse off, since you don't see your need.

That is why the Bible says, "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom (those today who belong to a church and think they are Christians) will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:11, 12.

Understand? Those whom you, the state, the church, the "good" society think are bad, wicked, and "not up to par" will be the ones to feast in heaven. Those who think they belong there, the "subjects" of the kingdom, will be thrown outside. The weeping and gnashing of teeth won't be by the "wicked" but by the "righteous" who thought they were going to be in heaven and are now finding themselves burning up. They will be weeping and gnashing their teeth.

Why? Because they did not forgive. They did not love. They thought they had the right to act "like God" according to their perverse understanding of God. They never studied the beauty of holiness, of forgiveness, of the loving kindness of God. Like Lucifer, they want the power of God to hate, hurt and bring vengeance, but they never learned to accept God's meekness, love, kindness and forgiveness. We are to leave the "anger, hate, hurt and vengeance" we have of others to God. You are to practice the other attributes of Jesus if you want to get into heaven.

Yet look at all the "Christians" going to court against those they feel have hurt them or done them wrong. "Christians" who claim to believe the Bible refuse to listen to it or practice what it says. "But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in

ceit and malice. **They are gossips**, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless." Romans 1:29-31.

All because of envy. The point is, evil is evil. A gossip who breaks faith and betrays a confidence is a wicked person. Of course she will not think so, but the Bible says she is. Never are we to base our judgment on what we feel, but on the facts as the Word of God calls it. It is something like football. You, standing in the stadium may see a play and feel that it was okay. The football player doing the play may feel that it was okay. In fact, the whole stadium may feel that it was OK. But if the referee says it was a wrong, it was wrong and that is that.

Again, that is why so few people are going to heaven. They think they have a right to gossip, or slander, or do this or that, since, they are "righteous" and the other person is a "sinner". There are people in the church going around talking about this person who is gay, or that person who is divorced or that one who did this or that. Some even take others to court. The Bible says that the one going around gossiping is wicked and will not be in heaven. People, keep your mouths shut. Practice self-control.

This is another part of envy, looking up to the neighbors. Look at what is happening in our society. Look at the long hours we are putting into work, and for what? For things of this world that are about to pass away. Why? No one is content. Everyone is off trying to find contentment. Work, work, work. Buy, buy, buy. Get, get, get.

The consequences of all this are broken lives, broken families, broken relationships. It doesn't have to be that way if you will follow the advice of the Bible. "Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:6.

"'For whom am I toiling', he asked, 'and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?' This too is meaningless — a miserable business"!! Ecclesiastes 4:8.

Please folks, calm down, cut back and reduce your wants and your envy of what everyone else has. You don't need it. All you need is what Jesus offers. Peace, health, happiness, joy and eternal life. Let this world go.

Another aspect of this “envy” and “gossip” are the TV and radio talk shows. There is nothing more sinful, wicked and godless than these shows. Always gossiping and getting into everyone's business. Totally against God. None of it does any good. All this airing dirty laundry is only for money, fame or spite. But lives are being ruined and destroyed. Be quiet, says the Bible, and know that God is God.



“The proud and arrogant man – ‘Mocker’ is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.” Proverbs 21:24. “A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.” Proverbs 29:23.

Pride is quite a critter. People run around pointing fingers at people and saying, “You should not be proud”. Yet most of those pointing their fingers are very proud of the fact that they are pointing the finger in order to humble the one they think to be proud. Hmmmmm.

You see, the Bible talks about good pride and bad pride. Paul talks about being proud of his “great confidence in you”. 2

This brings up the next point, revenge. We all make mistakes. But are we to continue making a person suffer for their mistakes? We call ourselves “Christians” and then act in the most devilish ways against those we think have hurt or harmed us. We have no love, no forgiveness and no grace towards those we feel have betrayed or wronged us, or those we love. That is of the devil, not Jesus.

In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus gives a parable about forgiveness. Simply put, a man owed the king ten thousand dollars and could not pay it. When the king put him and his wife and children up for sale to pay the debt, the man fell on his knees and begged. The king was moved and forgave him his debt. But when that man went out and saw a fellow servant who owed him one hundred dollars, he grabbed him by the neck and began choking him and demanded his money. The fellow servant fell on his knees and begged. But the servant had him thrown into jail until he paid the very last penny.

When the king heard of this, he sent for that wicked servant and said, “You wicked servant, I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” Then he handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he paid back all he owed.

The Bible says, “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is Mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:19-21.

If you are the one taking out “God's wrath” on your enemy, then God can't do any more to punish that person. He now must punish you for your wickedness. Drop it. Leave it alone. Let go of your anger and wickedness against those you think are bad, evil or wicked. You are only making yourself like them, no matter how you justify yourself.

know Him.

Keeps No Record of Wrongs

This is a hard one. Most people are destroying their lives by living in the past. They are harboring all the wrongs that anyone has supposedly done to them in real or in imagination. Their lives are being worn out by thoughts of revenge and anger. What a waste.

Maybe there were wrongs committed. But haven't we all committed wrongs to others? Haven't we all done something that was not right to someone else, either knowingly or unknowingly? That is why the Bible is so strong on forgiveness. You must let go. You must let the past be buried and let the grass grow over the burial site. Forget it. Your anger will not change the one who did you the wrong. Your anger will only destroy you.

Do you have to live with someone who is hurting you deliberately? No. The Bible says to leave them. Have nothing to do with them if they do not want to repent and turn from their hurtful behavior. But don't take the anger with you when you leave. You can forgive them in your heart; leave and start a new life. Don't let their wicked, miserable life destroy yours. Let it go and begin a new life in Jesus. But do everything in your power to bring reconciliation between the two of you. That is of God.

Keeping score of wrongs is a miserable way to live. It brings no satisfaction. At the end of life, what will you have to look back upon: nothing of any value. On the other hand, if your life is dedicated to loving God and serving all mankind, you will have a life to look back upon that will bring you immense pleasure and pride. When walking through a rose garden, stop checking out the thorns and keep your eyes on the roses. Life will be a lot happier.

Corinthians 7:4. Nothing wrong with an honest, Christ-like pride in something good. What God, and most humans hate, is the pride that is built on stupidity, falsehoods and lies. You know what I mean, the person who thinks he is something when he really isn't. That is why we are not to compare ourselves among ourselves. Churches are so prideful.

Paul tells the Galatians that instead of comparing ourselves among ourselves or by ourselves, the true person will "test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else." Galatians 6:4. The concept being, true pride is actually humbling. If we look into the Law of God's Ten Commandments and see that we are obeying them, that is something to be proud of, yet at the same time it will be very humbling. Be proud of all the good you can do. Be proud of being a Christian. If you are being a Christian, you will be humbling yourself to help your needy brother and sister.

LOVE IS NOT RUDE

Love is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. These three run together.

Was Jesus "rude"? Yes – no. It depends on what side of the word you are standing. If rude to you means that someone has said or done something that offended you, then yes, Jesus was rude. If rude to you means that someone deliberately went out of his way to cause you trouble, then no, Jesus was not rude.

To illustrate this point, turn to Matthew 15 and read verses 1-16. If you were a Pharisee standing there during this discourse, you would say that Jesus was very rude to you and the Pharisees. Listen to what the disciples had to say as they watched these Pharisees.

"Then the disciples came to Him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'" Matthew 15:12. Absolutely. Jesus even answers this concept of rudeness.

All wickedness is offended by righteousness. All the sinners will point fingers at the righteous and call them “rude” for saying such nasty things of them. I have been called vile by wicked people who think they are of God. This book has been called, “Scurrilous” and “of the devil”. Why? Because this book teaches truth, the teachings of Jesus, and they don’t want to hear it.

This is what Jesus says, “He replied, ‘Every plant that My heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides.’” Matthew 15:13, 14. If you were a Pharisee, you would think that Jesus was very rude to say that. But you see, Jesus was just speaking truth. The wicked hate the truth. Did Jesus go out of His way to say wicked things about the Pharisees? No. They were the ones who came to Him to lodge the complaint. That can be read in the first two verses. Jesus was simply defending His disciples. In other words, the Pharisees brought it on themselves. Keep our mouths shut and we won’t be getting into so much trouble.

Jesus loves, but He never shrank from delivering truth, even if it meant being “rude”. However, it was always delivered in love. Going on we find where we could say that Jesus was “rude” again. “Peter said, ‘Explain the parable to us.’ ‘Are you still so dull?’ Jesus asked them.” Matthew 15:16. What if you were Peter? Would you not think that Jesus answered you in a rude manner? If you’re honest, I think you would think so. If not, see how you respond when someone says to you, “Are you still so dull?” You might take offense also.

To explain this concept more fully, we move to the gospel of John. John, in chapter 6, is recording a dialog between Jesus and His antagonists. The speech Jesus was using was causing a lot of trouble among His hearers. So much so that they were “grumbling”. Jesus directly tells them to “Stop grumbling among yourselves.” John 6:43. They were very offended at Jesus and His manner of speech. They thought He was rude to them in His remarks. So offensive and “rude” was Jesus that “On hearing it, many of His disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?’” John 6:60.

You see, in today’s world, as back then, if we are not “Politically Correct” (P.C.) in our speech, we might offend someone, or a church or a religion or a this or a that. The devil does not want us to be “rude”, but to keep truth to ourselves. Jesus was not afraid of being un-P.C. He taught truth. “Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’” John 6:61. Yes it did.

Are we to be “rude”? Absolutely not. We are to be truthful no matter what the consequences. I am not to hurt anyone. But if that person perceives a hurt just because I teach truth, that is his problem and not mine. But I will in no way go out of my way to be rude. In love, I must be gentle in all that I do, including the teaching of truth. But I must teach truth and let the marbles fall where they will. “The Word of the Lord is offensive to them.” Jeremiah 6:10.

Outside of truth we must not be rude. We must not desire the first place, or the best food or the best clothes or the this and the that. Let us do all in our power to gently and humbly love those around us, but never to the point of giving up the truth.

Jesus was never self-seeking, He was never easily angered. Did He get angry, Yes. But never over self. His anger was directed against sin and those who were hurting others. He stood up for truth and righteousness, but never for self. They could beat Him, spit on Him and do all manner of evil against Him, and that was okay. But the minute they went against truth, He was there to stand up for it and defend it without hurting them.

If you want to know how angry God gets, as we are to get, just read the book of Jeremiah carefully. See how God gets angry. Then, as a Christian, you get angry at sin and wickedness in your life, and refuse to walk in it any more.

Are we to hate? Absolutely. Amos 5:15 will tell you to hate evil and to love good. The problem is, we have all been brainwashed by the devil and allow sin and evil into our lives and think that it is okay. No, it is not. Get it out. Get angry at sin. Hate sin. Then live the righteous, holy, sinless life of Jesus by getting to