

When we come to an fork in the road, Great Catcher NY Yogi Berra said the thing to do is TO TAKE IT.

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*But what about when we come to an intersection?*

-proceed with caution. Don't want to get in a big wreck.

As many of you know an intersection is where people on different heading in different directions intersect. Come to together.

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Just as we need to proceed with caution when we intersect with others on the roads...

When come to a place where we intersect with others who disagree with us on life matters, how are we to respond? Similar.

**With Caution & Self Control.**

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\*Whether it is a brother who sees something different that you, or a Non-Christian who charges you w being a hater, narrow minded, all those words of love the lost like to assail the church with.

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**1 Corinthians 6:1-11** “How to Respond at an Intersection”

It has been a long time since I first started to drive a car, but when I was a new driver I was a little timid at times.

Little more cautious.

But after driving for so long I often forget what those days were like.

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It's been a long time since some of us were saved, & if not careful we will forget just how we were. \*get a little self righteous.

In much of 1 Corinthians Paul got on to the believers at Corinth for some of their behavior, and here specifically the way they were acting towards one another.

\*Having disputes and acting like lost people,

rather than saved people.

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They had *sexual immorality* in the church, they had **cliques**,

having disputes with one another.

**(Obviously they had some issues.)**

\*Church over near where we use to live “Corinth Baptist Church”- I honestly don't know that it exists any longer.

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**We live in a world where there is a lot of Disputes.**

1-We intersect with fellow believers over something, we need to act appropriately.

2-When we intersect with the Lost & have differences with them there is a proper way to respond as well.

Although this section of 1 Corinthians is specifically dealing with disputes between brothers, When we intersect or have a dispute with all others there are some things we need to keep in mind.

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**#1- WE Need To Respond With Patience**

Ya'll think God & others believers were patient with you when you were lost & outside the Family of God?

Paul is quick to remind the believers at Corinth just where they came from.

Ever heard the statement "don't forget where you came from"

We who are in Christ would do well to remember that!

I know where God brought me from- selfish, greedy, filthy mouth.

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Not only am I glad God was patient with me then, the truth is He still is patient with us now.

Patience = **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

**\*If we aren't growing as believers in the area of patience we aren't *sipping from the right hose.***

The word Patience & Longsuffering are used in NT a lot?

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\*Sometimes when we get into a dispute or disagreement, anger can even cloud believer's minds to what is right.

**\*Affect our witness – Paul reminds them of this.**

When you have a difference with a brother and you are having a hard time working it out, get with some other believers who are neutral towards both parties.

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Even in our day, brothers suing brothers, believers going to the Lost with important matters the church is much better to handle.

\*-Marriage Counseling, Child rearing (secular magazines)

\*Should make a Country Song titled

"Looking for Counsel in All the Wrong Places"

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(Don't let disputes escalate to where the world sees it

& we lose our witness) v.6- before unbelievers.

1 of Paul's main points at the simplest level here is... we as believers should act a lot different than the world towards 1 another, & how we use 2 act.

It would be better to "turn the other cheek" and take the loss accd. To v.7 than mess up one's witness and act like pagans.

(v.7 – better to suffer wrong – die to self for the glory of God)

It takes humility to do it.

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When we have a disagreement with a non-believer the way we respond is a witness as well. We need to be extra patient.

**“We were just like them”**

When you were outside Christ, was God patient with us!!!

Patience is something I think American’s may struggle with a little more than much of the world.

WE have so many conveniences right at the tips of our fingers.

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I think **I-4** is a great tool God may use at times to teach His people patience.

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You may have not gone to the local judge over an issue with another believer over something as it appears was taking place in Corinth, but you may possibly be or have been so crossed up with them over a dispute that you acted out line or let anger take over and hurt your witness in front of the lost.

I think patience though hinges on this...

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When we intersect with others...

**We also**

**#2-Need to Respond with Love**

When we were justified (the moment we were saved), a process began.

Our sanctification – where the Spirit of God begins to shape us

to act more like Jesus.

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One of the ways we show we are a follower of Christ is by showing love.

**The Bible is very clear about who we are to love.**

a-Love Our Brother

1 John 2:10-11 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

\*Jesus says in John 13:35 everyone will know we are His disciples if we have love for one another.

Witness Issue

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b-In Mark 12:31 – Jesus says Love thy neighbor as thy self

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c-In Luke 6:27 Jesus says we are to love our enemies.

Just about covers everybody. (Brethren, Neighbor, Enemy)

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In Mat 5 Jesus tells us it is **easy to love** those who love us.

Pagans do that.

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I can promise this - Loving the lost will not happen if we aren't loving each other rightly.

Some of you may have some bitterness to root out in your lives.

Front End Loaders – Root Rakes – Spirit of God may be ready to break out the Root Rake.

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You have allowed things to creep into your life that should not be.

Jesus challenges the **Church at Ephesus** in Rev. 2:4 about how their love had been waning.

The very church that Paul commended for their love years earlier in Ephesians 1.

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Listen, too much negativity (**contagious**), gossip, watch and listen to negativism, attitude of gratitude can quickly turn into an attitude of GRUMP-ITUDE.

Watch too much news & listen to too much political talk radio.

(More concerned about the Constitution being protected than the Word of God being honored.)

It is a lost world – since the Fall in the Garden it has been going the wrong way & will until the Lord does what he is going to do at the end.

Maybe someone or something at the church has you all bugged up, or at your work place that your heart isn't full of love..

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Sometimes those of us who are a part of the Kingdom of God can look more like the Kingdom of the Critical.

*This situation at Corinth was 1 eat up with Self.*

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**Ever seen Pollyanna? She went around time trying to bring cheer.**

How about **Anne of Greengables?** Catherine (gooseberry)

*WE could use a lot more Pollyanna's in every church.*

Where there is love there is health & Unity.

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Do you have the reputation of being more like Pollyanna or the Gooseberry?

I want to be like Barnabas "The Son of Encouragement"

*When we are loving rightly, we will be encouragers at some level!*

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**When we get in a disagreement with those we intersect with, and it becomes more about proving our point**

than reflecting Christ we are wrong.

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Not only do we need to be Patient & Loving when we intersect....

**#3 –We Need to Respond With Truth**

Paul is very clear as to what is the kind of behavior is honoring to God, and not honoring to God all throughout his letters.

Although this passage is dealing specifically with brothers dealing with brothers over disputes, when it comes to dealing with the lost, there is some truths we cannot forget.

One of the hot button issues right now is this whole Homosexual marriage stuff. And rightly so.

If you walk with Christ & people know you are a Christian you will intersect with people on this issue.

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There is no reason to Sugar Coat – God's Word is clear.

And as a church we should be clear, but being hot headed isn't the way to handle it.

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The Word is clear about Sexual Immorality.

a-Fornicators (sex outside marriage in any form)

b-Adulterers

c-Homosexuals

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Young people, in the not too distant future you and your children are going to be harassed if you stand for the truth.

But you are going to have to decide if you are going to stand with God or not.

Scripture is clear on this matter. Make no bones about it.

Romans says.... Rom 1:18-27 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.<sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.<sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools,<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,<sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;<sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

**President** a few years ago said something about this as an obscure verse....

*Not to obscure*

1 Tim 1:8-10 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,<sup>9</sup> understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,<sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

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But when you meet someone or encounter someone who is a homosexual or disagrees with you on the matter, please remember **to show love** while standing on the truth...

We are to love them just like someone did us when we were in sin.

**We are no better than anyone**, just justified & being sanctified.

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\*\*\*We are going to intersect with people with different faiths & worldviews than we do.

\*\*\*\*We are going to have disagreement with brothers.

If we are going to impact the world for Christ

we have to do it His way.

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So the next time you come to an intersection with someone think about what Christ would have you to do?

Maybe you need to apologize for the way you have acted recently. (heated debate in SS?)

Maybe you are at an intersection today with Jesus.?