
Don't Let the "Little Things" Bother You

An all too common story...

Late in the month of December, an elementary school principle said to his teachers, "Let's all write out our New Year's resolutions about how we can be better teachers, and I'll put them on the staff bulletin board. That way, we can be mutually supportive of our efforts to keep those resolutions."

The teachers agreed that it was a good idea and when the resolutions were posted, they all crowded around the bulletin board to read them. One of the young teachers in the group suddenly went into a fit of anger. "He didn't put up my resolution! It was one of the first ones in. He doesn't care about me. That just shows what it's like around here."

On and on she ranted. The Principal overheard all of this from his office down the hall and was mortified. He hadn't meant to exclude her resolution. Quickly rummaging through the papers on his desk, he found it and immediately went to the bulletin board and tacked it up. The resolution read, "I resolve not to let little things bother me anymore."

That school would have been far better off had this woman made a real commitment to her resolution - posted or not. Life is much easier when people don't let the little things get under their skin.

This is a Biblical principle and it's one we need very much in the church. It is found several places in the Bible. We'll consider a few of them in this lesson.

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:25.

What is the usual way we respond when we've been wronged?

How will someone who is patient when wronged deal with difficult situations?

Does this teaching make us a doormat? If not, how can we practice it without getting run over by those who don't care?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5

How do people "take into account a wrong suffered"?

Is there any significance to that word "suffered"?

If we incorporate this teaching, how will we deal with wrongs done to us?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:8

In what way does this verse mean that love "covers" sin?

Why is love important to this teaching?

4. Read Proverbs 19:11

Does this mean that we just turn our backs and let people get away with sin?

What about our responsibility in Matthew 18:15 to go to them in private and tell them their fault?

Conclusion

According to Paul, the church is "fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the working of each individual part." (Ephesians 4:16) You and I make up the "each individual part." Our attitudes as individuals make up the ultimate attitude of the church. Our willingness (or reluctance) to not let the little things bother us makes the church either a great thing or something despised. Let's be sure we are committed to not letting the little thing bother us.