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"WHAT TO PUT AWAY"



By the late C. D. Cole

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31,32).

This message is to help to show what we are to do with our hurt feelings and resentments. While we are in the flesh we are going to offend others and others will offend us. We will not always be treated by others just like we would like to be treated. And if we do not react properly to ill treatment we will hurt ourselves, cause others misery and dishonor our Saviour.

The Scriptures warn us against harboring malice and ill-will in our hearts. "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (Col. 3:8).

Remember that at the basis of most resentments and ill-will is a touchy, unsundered self. When we are surrendered to the will of God, we throw off resentments and hurt feelings just as a healthy skin throws off disease germs. Unless there is an inner disease, or an abrasion of the skin, disease germs can get no foothold in the body. So, when malice and ill-will get a footing in the heart, it shows there is a raw, sensitive self underneath that has become soil for rooting and growth of resentments. Our hurt feelings are in reality only wounded pride. An oversensitive person is a prob-

lem to others and a threat to himself. Remember when you go around with a chip on your shoulder, the chip is probably from the block above--a head that holds an oversensitive mind.

George Washington Carver was one of the greatest men the South ever produced. He was a Negro with a black skin, but with a white heart and a great mind. He was a scientist and a saint. He was a great blessing to both races by his chemical discoveries and service to the farmers of the South. A certain university once accepted him as a student, but on discovering he was a Negro, refused him admittance. When asked what university it was, Dr. Carver consistently refused to tell, passing the incident off as nothing of importance. He not only had the peace of mind that passeth all understanding, but also all misunderstanding.

We would like to call attention to the disruptive effects of anger and malice. Doctors tell us that anger may cause arthritis; that stomach ulcers are often the results of anger and malice. A mother-in-law did not like her son-in-law whom she visited once a year. Every time she went to visit him, she developed arthritis; and every time she came home, she was well.

A pastor had his heart on becoming pastor of a certain church. Because he did not get it, his wife became embittered and ill and died in a short time, and he himself became so upset that he quit the ministry. Resentment killed the body of one

and the soul of the other. Authorities tell us that probably 60 percent of all diseases root in the mind.

Our big problem is that of handling our hurt feelings and keeping out malice and ill-will. We want to tell you that:

NEGATIVELY

1. We must not suppress them. This will only drive them down into the sub-conscious mind, for there they will work underground and make pouters of us.

2. We must not explode them. When our feelings are hurt it will give temporary relief by giving the other person a piece of our mind. One woman said that when she gets mad she goes to the piano and bangs out her resentments through Mozart's Sonatas with apologies to Mozart.

3. We must not nurse our hurt feelings. There is nothing that responds to nursing and petting like hurt feelings. You can brood over ill treatment until you can do nothing but brood over them. This is not the way to handle hurt feelings.

4. And there is no use in running away from circumstances that give rise to resentments. Many a preacher does this very thing when he leaves one church to go to another. And many other pastors would like to do the same thing. Their feelings are continually being hurt by opposition and lack of appreciation of their work--and they think it would be better for them to be elsewhere.

5. Do not parade your resentments before others not even your best friends. I know a man who thinks he has been terribly mistreated. And he is probably right in his thoughts. But he has hurt himself by brooding over it and parading it before others. You can hardly talk to him five minutes that he does not trot out his resentments. He parades them as something to be proud of.

POSITIVELY

1. We must love our enemies and forgive them. This is not easy, but grace will help. If we only love those who love us and do good to those who do us good, we are no different from lost people. We must love and forgive for Christ's sake. It is what He commands, and we must seek to please him. It was for Christ's sake that God forgave us, and we must forgive others for the same reason. If you do not have a forgiving spirit and really want it, ask Christ for it.

2. We must think of others and not always insist on our own way. A man and his wife were constantly quarreling. The quarrel usually began over the radio--she wanted music and he wanted news. Then one day God came into his life and he was a changed man. When he returned home he walked to the radio and turned on the music. His wife looked at him in

surprise and said, "But this is the news hour." "I know it," he replied, "but I thought you would like the music." She could hardly trust her ears, but responded by getting up and turning on the news. They learned how to solve their problem by thinking of the other person first.

3. Practice the golden rule. Do unto others like you would have others do unto you. Too many do unto others like others do unto them--they reciprocate. And too many do others before others can do them--they beat them to it. The golden rule is preached by everybody and practiced by nobody.

A woman told a certain man how badly her neighbor had treated her. The man asked if she had a garden. She did have. He then asked if her neighbor had a garden. She didn't have. Then he told her to go pick the nicest basket of beans she could find and take them to her neighbor. She was to tell her kindly that she had mistreated her, but as a token of her forgiving Spirit, she had picked and brought these beans. And when she had done this, she was to come and tell him what happened. At first she told him she could not do it. He urged it upon her as the proper thing for a Christian to do. She finally agreed to do it, and when it was done she told him it worked like a charm. Her neighbor confessed her sin and fell at her feet begging forgiveness. The whole affair ended with the two women in each other's arms and confessing their faults to each other. A Japanese student and a Chinese student were in the same university and the Japanese disliked the Chinese intensely. But when the Japanese student was ill, the Chinese student brought food to him every day. This kind attention broke down the enmity and they became fast friends. I once heard a brother say, "Let's kill them with kindness."

4. When it is necessary to speak of the faults of a person, don't say, "I don't like him." It is better to say, "I don't like certain things in that person and they are these." And after stating his faults, then say, "But here are some things about him that I like." And tell what they are. Every Christian man will show up to a better advantage if you will do this.

When we talk about not liking somebody or hating somebody, our words are born of prejudice and we are in open rebellion against Him who said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."



CLEAN IN A DIRTY PLACE

In this age of immorality, filthy speech, and pornography, purity is almost an unknown virtue. While God knows we cannot withdraw from life, but of necessity must rub elbows with many who are on the broad way that leads to destruction, He does expect His children to keep themselves, "unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). It is all-imprtant that we maintain our personal holiness (I Pet. 1:16).

One day a young minister was being escorted through a coal mine. At the entrance of one of the dim passageways, he spied a beautiful white flower growing out of the black earth. "How can it blossom in such purity and radiance in this dirty mine?" the preacher asked. "Throw some coal dust on it and see for yourself," his guide replied. When he did, he was surprised that the fine, sooty particles slid right off the snowy petals, leaving the plant just as lovely and unstained as before. Its surface was so smooth that the grit and grime could not adhere to it. In commenting on this incident, an unknown author says, "Our hearts should have the same characteristic. Just as that flower could not control its habitat, so we cannot help it that we have to live in a world filled with evil. But God's grace can keep us so clean and unspotted that though we touch sin on every side, it will not cling to us."

If we want the Lord's full blessing and approval, we must heed the admonition, "...keep thyself pure" (I Tim. 5:22). By the cleansing power of His Word and the sanctifying influence of His Holy Spirit, it is possible for the Christian to remain "clean in a dirty place."

—OUR DAILY BREAD

COLERIDGE'S GARDEN

The poet, Coleridge, was once visited by a skeptic named Thelwell. Thelwell insisted that children should not be taught about God. He said that their minds should be left free from all prejudices. He wanted their minds to grow naturally.

Coleridge had a garden but he loved to study his books much more than to dig in the garden. So it had become a mass of weeds. Thelwell was fond of gardening and he said: "I wonder, Mr. Coleridge, that your garden is in such a state. Why don't you weed it and plant flowers?" Oh, replied Coleridge, "I want my garden to grow naturally. I want it to be free from all prejudices."

—NEWS AND TRUTHS

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