

Sometimes Well-Meaning Brethren Don't Understand

I. Introduction:

A. Faithful Christians are more than willing to help brethren in times of spiritual and physical needs (**Galatians 6:1-2** and **I John 3:14-18**).

1. With spiritual things, isn't there are point wherein we each also have to stand on our own (**Galatians 6:3-5**)?
2. With physical needs, what if we enable laziness amongst our brethren (**Proverbs 24:30-34**)?

B. Just because we think we are doing something good doesn't make it so (**Proverbs 16:2; 16:25**).

1. The ability to discern was/is important (**Ezekiel 44:23** and **Hebrews 5:12-14**).
2. To understand a situation, and act aright according to that situation, is very important (i.e. **Proverbs 17:18**).
 - a. The word translated "strikest" means: "...by implication, to become bondsman by handclasping..." (Strong's # 8628).
 - b. A surety is "...something given as security..." (Strong's # 6161).
 - c. The caution is that it is not always good to put yourself out to bail someone else out of trouble (**Proverbs 6:1-5**, **Proverbs 11:15**, and **Proverbs 22:26-27**).
 - d. That DOESN'T mean it's always wrong or unwise either (**Philemon 1:1-21**). Just do so with a proper understanding.

II. Body: We need to be able to measure things properly as not to encourage something bad or discourage something good (I.E. **Matthew 26:1-13**).

A. We know the importance of getting the whole story (**Proverbs 18:13**). Understanding whether we are helping or hindering is similar to getting the whole story.

1. Think about an older sister guiding a younger sister to obey her husband (**Titus 2:3-5**), without understanding that her husband would lead her in ways not fit in the Lord (**Colossians 3:18**).
2. Sometimes we think we should teach everything we can to someone without understanding that some things can be too much too fast (**Mark 4:33**, **John 16:12**, and **I Corinthians 3:1-3**).
3. On the other hand, sometimes people allow others to continue in sin and say nothing when it is absolutely essential for something to be said (**Proverbs 27:5-6**).
4. Sometimes well-intended brethren wont accept that someone doesn't want the right kind of help and they insert themselves in a harmful way. Jehoshaphat wanted to be brotherly to Ahab. He thought Ahab wanted to hear what the will of God was. Jehoshaphat's good intentions didn't benefit Micaiah very well (**I Kings 22:1-40**).

B. Peter meant well (Mark 8:31-38).

1. Peter's rebuke was, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (**Matthew 16:21-23**).
2. Peter's intention was to keep Jesus from death. He was willing, at one point, to physically engage in Jesus' defense (**John 18:1-11**).
3. How hard would it have been to watch Jesus be arrested, falsely tried, and put to death? You could even have a Scriptural conflict (**Proverbs 24:11-12**).
4. Yet, the only good thing was to allow the will of God to be accomplished (**Hebrews 10:25-36** and **I John 2:15-17**).
5. It was the will of God that Jesus die in the manner in which He was put to death (**Acts 2:22-23** and **Galatians 1:3-4**).

C. The brethren in Caesarea meant well (Acts 21:3-16).

1. Like the previous example, how could you want to watch one you love suffer persecution? There would be concern (**I Thessalonians 3:1-8**).
2. Paul knew he needed to go to Jerusalem and he knew it wasn't going to be physically pleasant (**Acts 20:22-24**).
3. What didn't help Paul was their weeping. Paul thought about how things affected brethren (**II Timothy 1:4**).
4. We never want to be a source of pain for our brethren (**Philippians 2:25-30**).
5. Think about how, in Paul's case, the concern of his brethren was not edifying. It just made a difficult task that much harder. While some need comfort (**Psalms 69:20**), be careful how you deliver such!

D. Paul meant well (II Corinthians 11:7-9 and II Corinthians 12:13).

1. Since carnal mindedness was a problem in Corinth (cf. **I Corinthians 3:4**), Paul didn't want them to have occasion to call him burdensome.
2. He did the same thing for various reasons in Thessalonica. While in Thessalonica the church in Philippi supported him (**Philippians 4:16**) and he worked himself (**I Thessalonians 2:8-9; 4:9-11** and **II Thessalonians 3:6-15**).
3. However, since Paul took the liberty not to be supported by them (Corinth), did they really learn how they should have supported him for the work he did for them (**I Corinthians 9:1-14**)?

III. Conclusion: Proverbs 3:13, Proverbs 4:5-7, and Proverbs 13:15