

Settle Your Disputes Before There's Resentment

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

The next two videos in our Mutually Serving Jesus Your Lord With Resolute Determination series are available on Youtube <<https://youtu.be/3qRJBidMcEI>> <>. In the first video Mike discusses the role of the indwelling Holy Spirit to circumcise our hearts. Both the biblical truth of heart circumcision and the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit are too often undermined by many religious teachers, so this video will be eyeopening for you. The second video affirms that no one can do our Father's will or live in the Lordship of Jesus without listening to and obeying the inner voice and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord's followers are strong and very courageous!

The emotional climate in this nation is becoming so painfully volatile that we who follow our Lord Jesus need to understand how important it is to live with **Christ-like assertiveness**. This biblical response is made possible through hearing the voice and the prompting of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Christ-like assertiveness is a sign that we're truly abiding in dependent trust in the Spirit of Jesus within us.

Christ-like assertiveness is kind of a holy boldness – it gives us courage to fully serve as His ambassadors in obedient trust no matter what the circumstances. The choice is ours: to live in fear and be **under-assertive**; to live in arrogance as **over-assertive**; or to live in Spirit-empowered **Christ-like assertiveness**.

If you'd like to know more about Christlike assertive living, please read Kingdom Living Today, 33. "*Blessed Are The Meek, For They Will Inherit The Earth*"

<<https://restorationministries.org/download/>

[33.kingdomlivingtoday.pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/33.kingdomlivingtoday.pdf)> Also, attached to this email you'll

find our assertiveness inventory to evaluate you and those close to you. **attach assertiveness inventory**

“Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out” (Proverbs 17:14).

The past several years have revealed just how antagonistic people can be to one another and to their life circumstances. Our nation is now dominated by **begrudging bitterness**. “Begrudging” bitterness is even worse than angry bitterness. It’s a seething inner resentment toward someone — and that’s the worst kind of relationship destroyer. Countless thousands of Christians take part in this defiling attitude because they refuse to seek the grace of God (see Hebrews 12:15).

Ask yourself if you reverently *fear God* and are fully confident that *He means what He says* in His Word: **to love, to forgive**, and **to have compassion** toward others. If not, it will be impossible for you to free yourself from begrudging bitterness. You’ll get sucked into the tumultuous public fray, believing there is a political solution in this election to all the surrounding chaos.

Now is the time for followers of our Lord Jesus to learn how to authentically keep peace *and* regain peace when it’s lost. We wrote our booklet, *Growing Relationships Through Confrontation*, <<https://restorationministries.org/download/grtcr.pdf>> so that followers of Jesus would understand God’s way of keeping peace and restoring peace when necessary. No family or fellowship family can last if ongoing relational apprehension permeates their relationships. And in the coming days we are going to need each other in ways that few of us have ever before experienced in our lives.

You can't wait until the times get more bitter and more divisively depressing. You need to learn now how to avoid disputes and disagreements and get back to peace when it's been taken away. *"All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained"* (Philippians 3:15,16).

Even now we need authentic peacemakers to help bring peace within families and fellowship families. Those who offer plastic smiles which hide inner resentment undermine we who are seeking to restore peace in Christ. The habitual toleration of unresolved tension can't be allowed to go on any longer. It's the kindling for fiery hatred in the future. Consider the view of our Lord regarding those who intentionally bring about peace:

- *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9).
- *"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness"* (James 3:18).

You may find it interesting that an entire town in Scandinavia confronts relational tension head on. If people have unresolved disputes or disagreements, they are rowed out to a small island, given water to drink, and forced to stay on the island till the dispute is settled. AMEN!

Mike:

I've been asked to serve as a peacemaker on several occasions, and I've set some specific conditions for my involvement. If either party refuses to involve themselves in the peacemaking process, I turn the resistant person over to Satan as Paul did in 1 Corinthians 5:5. I also let the two parties know that if they can't reach an agreement after thorough discussion, I will pray for our Father's will and deliver the decision on their

dispute — and that will end the matter. If they both agree to be involved in the discussion process, I make sure in my own heart that I act justly and not take sides in their issues. Being a peacemaker means you must facilitate their discussion with the resolute goal of having them come to a peaceful resolution.

In recent days we've been telling both Christians and non-believers we encounter ***“to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*** (2Corinthians 10:5). It seems to us that non-believers are far more willing to accept this truth than Christians who are self-satisfied and begrudgingly bitter. Remember this: Your *heart attitude* reflects how you're known in the heavenlies. If you claim to belong to our Lord Jesus, then authenticate that relationship through love, forgiveness, and compassion toward all people.

Mike & Sue

P.S. We have a prayer request on our behalf. Last week the Holy Spirit made known to us that we were to put our mobile home on the market. We've lived here almost 5 years. If you'd like to see the home, it's listed at this website: <https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/2750-Alden-Rd-Unit-51_Fruitland_ID_83619_M98081-33909>. You'll see in the attachment that we take *one step at a time*. We do have an inkling of where we think He might be leading us. As the steps unfold for us, we'll keep you informed. Thank you!