



Newsletter Article - March 2011

TACKLING TOUGH QUESTIONS?

How to tackle Tough Topics when the Elephant is in the Room:

Today people are asking and dealing with tough questions and demanding transparent answers. Jesus' messages were always simple as 123 and very practical for those involved in hard situations. And today, over 2000 years later, Jesus continues to teach us how to deal with our own elephants. Our issues do not change but our methods and application change. **Are you comfortable to tackle tough issues when the elephant is still in the room?**

And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. *16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. [a] Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

Let's Begin:

1. It is always important to address hard subjects through **Gentleness and Respect**: Most people are not fans of controversy and confrontation, however Paul gives us an answer on how to successfully deal with debates and unsettling issues. **Avoidance is not Optional**. Deliberately avoiding a subject or a situation does not make it better, it only makes it worse. Most people believe if one keeps away from the issue, it prevents it from happening. **Avoidance only proves** that we will have more to deal with in the end. **"If you negate something now, you will still have to deal with it later."** **No Conflict Is Impossible For God To Resolve.**
2. **Always use the Truth**: We must learn to answer or have conversations with others in truth, honesty, and love. "The truth will set you free" is such a commonly used phrase, today. Many would consider it one of the great laws of life. The truth sometimes will make one uncomfortable. The truth is worth standing for, not arguing about. God comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with other in trouble using truth. 31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." And he who the Son set free is free indeed. John 8:36
3. **Don't ignore the Elephant (issue)**: People talk more about unproductive items and talk less about the important ones. Talking about issues is a form of healthy communication. Life is designed to offers us trouble. Talk about it, when you ignore things it only causes the problem to stay longer.



Reaching, Growing, Sharing Christ

4. **Opinions:** Personal and outside opinion shape our views on things, remember your opinion should never shape your faith but *How does your faith shape your opinion?* Learn to consider others opinions; they are important as your own. The more sincerely and respectfully we are about voicing or opinions, other people listen. “Don’t derive your opinions or take action based entirely on what someone says, but on personal knowledge and study. Then, when you hear various interpretations, you can judge the value by what you know to be true”.
5. **Learn to be open about what you don’t know;** and be willing to listen and learn. Be humble enough to admit, you do not know everything. Faith, Courtesy, Openness. Learn how to scribble outside your lines.
6. **What do you stand for?** Jesus was tough of standing for justice and equality to all people. He treated people with dignity and respect as if they mattered to God. All People Matter to God. Be careful what you stand for, make sure it lines up with God’s views about standing.