

Responding to Accusation

Increasing Conflict (Political, Racial) with *Expectation of Response* (Pressure - pick side)

Culture (Ps 1:1) vs Culture of Heaven (Ps 1:2) - no sides (Josh 5:13-14)

Accusation (Rev 12:10) Provokes Self Justification (defensiveness reflex)

(Lk 16:15) And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts.” (illusion of full understanding)

we don’t know our hearts (Jer 17:9)

God can’t reveal our hearts (His desire) or bring us into agreement with Him

in midst of self justification - trap: lure us away from partnership with Jesus

Biblical Response to Accusation

(1Co 4:3-5) But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Stuart’s Dream

no right side/response - everyone wrong (Jn 17:20-23 glory - hearts)

Response to Accusation must first be directed toward Jesus!

(Ps 139:23-24) Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Ps 51:5-8) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Pursue His Praise/Justification, not self/men’s

(Isa 53:11) By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

We need His Knowledge of our hearts. He’ll use Conflict to Reveal it.

(Rev 12:10-11) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

1. Justified in Christ alone

2. Heart Agreement with Jesus reflected in Speech (Mt 12:34-37, Jam 1:19 adjust heart)

3. Embrace Accusation/Persecution as Revealer of our Hearts (Psa 119:67, 71, 75)

There is Freedom and Joy in Embracing this Process

(1Jn 3:20-21) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

context: Loving Others - expressing what we’ve experienced in Him

(Ga 4:16-19) ¹⁶Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Stuart Greaves: Walking in the counsel of God in the Midst of Social Crisis

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