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"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

August 2018

FROM US TO YOU

Not since the Civil War has America been so politically divided! This nation was founded by Christian men and women who based our government on the laws of God. But it has become so polarized that it reminds us of the prophecy of Jesus, who said, *"At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold..."* (Matthew 24:10-13 NIV). And *"...every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand"* (Matthew 12:25 NIV). It is not Satan's will for America to be a great country. Because it was founded on biblical laws. So it is vital that Christians bind together and renew their relationship with God, keeping it strong. *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"* (Eph. 6:12 NIV).

If America was not blessed by God so abundantly, people from all around the world would not want to come here. However, our blessings have been inherited to us by our forefathers. They respected the laws of God and, in many cases, gave their lives to keep America a great nation. So why is there so much discord and turmoil in regard to the government? The answer is simple. For these are the last days before the return of Christ (Revelation chapter 19). So *"...woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"* (Revelation 12:12 KJV).

The deep hatred that we see in liberals for our President and our government does not come from God. The hatred has gotten so bad that liberals are even turning on each other. For example, liberal attorney Alan Dershowitz complained recently that he has been [ostracized by his neighbors on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts](#). Although Mr. Dershowitz voted for Hillary Clinton, he drew the fire of the Trump haters by publicly opposing the appointment of Robert Mueller's probe to investigate the President.

In fact, the hatred of the liberal left has gotten so bad that even women on the President's staff have been bullied. Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked to leave a Lexington, Virginia restaurant. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, was harassed so much while dining at a Mexican Restaurant in the D.C. area that she couldn't finish her meal. Later, the angry crowd actually went to her home to protest against her. Republican Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was also confronted by a militant crowd at a movie theatre.

So where is this deep hatred coming from? *"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love"* (1 John 4:8 NIV). And *"this is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. This is the*

message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another" (1 John 3:10-11 NIV). Jesus told us we must even love our enemies. So what must we do when confronted with this venom? *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."* (1 Peter 5:6-9 NIV).

All of this brings to mind the Bible story about the prophet Samuel. Originally, it was the Lord's will to be King over Israel, and to rule the people through His prophets. But there came a time when Israel began to backslide. They wanted to be like other nations that had human kings over them. So the Lord decided to let them have a human king and all the problems that would go with it. And God

said to Samuel, *"...Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their king"* (1 Samuel 8:7 NIV). We know President Trump is not perfect. No one is (Romans 3:23). But is it really him that liberals are opposing? Or is it the biblical values like the pro-life movement that he promotes?

We know that until Christ returns to this world as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" the devil is still working his destructive powers over all who oppose him. But Satan is a spirit who has no flesh and blood body. For God destroyed it (see Ezekiel 28:18) after Satan's failed mutiny (Rev. 12:7-9). Therefore, he uses his surrogates to influence policy (Acts 20:29-31, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). This reminds us of the biblical account of King Ahab, who was King of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah. They were discussing whether or not to

go to war. Ahab wanted to know if God would help him. Jehoshaphat urged him to ask his prophets. So Ahab *"...brought together the prophets - four hundred men - and asked them, 'Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?'"* 'Go,' they answered, *'for God will give it into the king's hand'"* (2 Chronicles 18:5 NIV). But both kings knew they were not God's prophets. So they called for a righteous prophet named Micaiah.

When Micaiah got there, he told them, *"...I saw the LORD sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left. And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?'"* One suggested this, and another that. Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, *'I will entice him.'* 'By what means?' the LORD asked. *'I will go and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,'* he said. *'You will succeed in enticing him,'* said the LORD. *'Go and do it'"* (2 Chronicles 18:18-21 NIV).

So how do we know which political advice is of God? Jesus said, *"...By their fruit you will recognize them..."* (Matthew 7:15-16 NIV). Also, see Galatians 5:17-26).

Till next time everyone, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Attorney Alan Dershowitz

Dealing With Difficult People

By Anne Kaestner

We all have to deal with them, people who just make us feel uncomfortable. They may not necessarily be enemies. Sometimes you just feel bad vibes around them. Such a person could be someone at work, or an in-law, perhaps a neighbor, or a health care provider. They're someone you just have to deal with. What does the Bible say about this? Jesus told us, "*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, 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*" (Matthew 5:43-44 KJV). Solomon, the wisest man to ever live (1 Kings 3:1-28), said, "*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger*" (Proverbs 15:1 NIV). It has taken me a lot of years with Christ to fully understand the meaning of this advice.

Let's start with the admonition about loving your enemy. On the surface it's hard to do, I know. Such people always seem to rub us the wrong way. So what do you do about it? I have learned the answer is to pray for them. And that's what scripture tells us to do. I remember a relative of mine who had come to Christ as a young man. That's when a person is most vulnerable, when they are a newly reborn Christian. The Apostle Peter called them "new babes in Christ" (1 Peter 2:2). But the relative that I'm referring to was sweet and considerate when he first became "Born Again" (John 3:3). That was until he got into some bad doctrine and his attitude changed. What he learned was the total opposite of Christianity, which teaches humility (Matthew 18:4). He was taught Calvinism. It a religion that bases its doctrine around a scripture that is taken out of context, something the devil does a lot.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church, regarding God the Father, "*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will - to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves*" (Ephesians 1:4-6 NIV). What it really means is that God had specific plans for each of us before we were even created. "*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*" (Ephesians 2:10 NIV). Remember that Jesus told Pontius Pilate "*...You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above...*" (John 19:11 NIV).

In other words, God has specific plans for the work He wants us to do (Ephesians 2:10). He made these decisions before this world was even made. He gave each of us certain talents and abilities to enable us to do what He had planned for us. That's what Paul meant by the word "predestined" in Ephesians 1:4-6. That's why it's so important for each of us to let Him control our lives. And He can't do that unless we stop trying to control our destiny by ourselves! God knew that there was a chance that giving humans free will to decide for themselves who they would serve was very risky. For one third of God's angels had already mutinied against Him (Revelation 12:7-9).

Therefore part of being predestined also meant that He had to have a remedy to put into effect in case mankind would fall into sin. The plan was reconciliation to Him through the death of His Son. But Calvinism misinterprets the scripture. It insinuates that God decided ahead of time who will go to Heaven and who will go to Hell. In truth that couldn't be more wrong! "*The Lord... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*"

(2 Peter 3:9 NIV). However, due to the fact that the scripture was misunderstood, the assumption by Calvinists is that they are more important to God than other people who will end up in Hell. That way of thinking leads to the inevitable pompous, egotistical pride that too many people have, who call themselves Christian.

That's why Jesus had so much trouble with the teachers of the law in His day, the Pharisees and Sadducees. They were hypocritical, sanctimonious, and condescending to others. For that reason Jesus said to His followers, "*...They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely*" (Luke 20:46-47 NIV). To teach the importance of humility, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples (John 13:1-17).

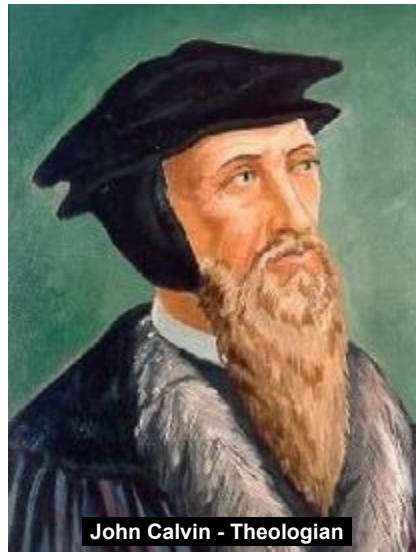
Therefore, the relative I spoke about had an attitude of superiority to anyone he felt was beneath him in wealth, education, or intellect. And I was concerned about him. So I started praying for the man. People think that when you pray for someone God will bless them. But that didn't happen to my relative. For the Lord began to humble

him to teach him a lesson. Therefore, the man ended up losing his job and financial security for about a year. But that didn't change him. So I continue to pray for him often. I don't consider him an enemy because part of me still has an affection for him. However, I don't like what he has become. So I'm leaving the matter with the Lord. For I remember how nice he was when he first came to Christ. And only Christ can change a person like that.

What about the scripture that states, "*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger*" (Proverbs 15:1 NIV). I've had some amusing experiences with that. The first one occurred before I gave my heart to the Lord. I was about nine years old and in grade school. There was a fairly big boy in my class who had a habit of following me when I walked home for lunch. One day he ran up to me, tak-

ing my hat off my head, laughing, and throwing it on the ground. Like I said, he was a big boy, so I concluded that getting angry would not help the situation. Instead, I used a different approach. I don't remember his name, so I'll call him Billy. I picked up my hat, looked him in the eye and said, "Billy, I like you. You're a nice boy. Why are you doing this to me?" Suddenly his attitude changed. He got a big grin on his face and said eagerly, "You like me? You really mean it? You're not just saying that?" I nodded to him and he ran away thrilled with my response. He never bothered me again! The truth is I hadn't even given him much thought, or formed an opinion about him.

Then there's the time during my high school years, that I had been given a part in the school's production of "A Sound of Music." I was in the nun's chorus, and we had just finished an after school rehearsal. It was probably five o'clock or five thirty. I was sitting on a bench outside the auditorium waiting for the late bus. Another girl in the cast was sitting next to me. I started feeling hungry, so I took out some cheese and sweet pickles (probably leftover from lunch) and started nibbling on one of the pickles. The girl next to me was likely aware of the smell of the food and turned to me, wrinkling up her nose. "Eeeew, you're eating pickles and cheese?" she asked with disdain in her voice. I responded by saying, "Would you like



John Calvin - Theologian

a pickle?" "Oh yes," she said enthusiastically. And putting one in her mouth she told me, "I like these sweet pickles best." So instead of getting annoyed at being mocked, I made a new friend. And when her mother came to pick her up, the girl asked her to drive me home as well. I remember being impressed by the luxury of her car, a new Lincoln Continental.

Then there's the time I was confronted by a police officer when I parked my car in a municipal parking lot across from the police station. In those days, we always parked in that parking lot since our cars had been vandalized near our apartment. No one had ever complained about it before and the police had always been nice to us. That is, except that day! The officer came up to me and told me that I couldn't park there. I guess he felt that since the police parked their own cars there, it was their lot. However, I smiled at him sweetly. He didn't have a uniform on so I said to him, "You're a cop, aren't you?" He nodded affirmatively. Then I continued, "You must be new. Because the police don't mind us parking here. They have been very nice to us, and friendly. When my husband had a problem with the car recently, some of them came over and helped him with it." The man's stern expression changed and he replied, "I was only joking about it." Then he walked off.

However sometimes the problem is more ongoing. For example, when I was in my mid-twenties, I worked for a brokerage company in the city. One day there was a new co-worker in the office. I'll call her Rita, but that was not her name. She sat right in front of me. So I asked her if she would like to have lunch with me. Rita agreed to the lunch, but didn't say much. I decided to try to make her life easier, since she was a new employee. So I told her about the other people who worked there and how to avoid pitfalls with them. However, as soon as we got back to the office, she repeated everything I had said and embellished it so much that it caused me a lot of trouble.

On another occasion, Rita handed me a stack of papers and demanded that I work on them for her. I was shocked at her presumption! I was also very busy with my own work that day and I refused to do it. I told her that I didn't work for her and that she should do her own work. However, she made such a fuss and complained about it so much that I decided to be kind and help her. I told her that, since she was new with the company, I would help her out this one time. But that she should not ask me again. I did the work, handed it to her, and got back to my own work. Then, to my astonishment, she handed me another stack of papers and ordered me to do the same. This time I refused to do it. A few days later, my supervisor told me that she had been talking to Rita in the ladies' room. She told me that Rita had said that I had refused to help her when she needed it. "We all help each other out around here, Anne," she told me. "When you need help, we will help you." I was shocked that Rita had complained about me, and distorted what happened.

Rita left the company after a few weeks and eventually I got a different job. About a year later I moved into a new apartment. I met a neighbor who lived across the hall from me. I'll call her Bonnie, but that was not her name. I was talking to Bonnie one day when something reminded me of a conversation I'd had with Rita. She had been bragging about her duplex apartment, her two boyfriends, her many clothes, etc. And the description of her apartment had sounded rather like the one I had. So I asked my neighbor if Rita had ever lived there. Bonnie said she had. And, if I remember correctly, I believe she lived in the same apartment that I had now rented. Bonnie told me that Rita was a strange person. And she recounted an episode where they had a dispute about money.

Rita had claimed that Bonnie owed her five dollars. And Bonnie

said she did not. Rita had gotten angry about it. That led to a big argument between them. Eventually Rita admitted she had been wrong about the money. Bonnie said that, at that point, Rita burst into tears. She had complained that no one liked her. She began talking about how her parents had died when she was a child. And how hurt she had been. Putting everything I learned about Rita together, I finally realized what the problem had been. Apparently, she was so afraid of being hurt again that she had avoided getting close to anyone else. Consequently, she had a history of making enemies on purpose. When I realized what her problem had been, I felt nothing but pity for her. No wonder Jesus told us to be kind to our enemies and pray for them. Rita needed the Lord! But I never saw her again.

Another example of this is in regard to a young executive I once worked for. I was only in my mid-twenties. He was about the same age as me, and an assistant vice president. When I first started working for him, I was told that he had a history of making trouble for other people. I won't give his real name. But I'll call him Arnold Bates. Apparently he had such an arrogant attitude toward the women who had worked for him that he couldn't even keep a secretary. I also worked for a Vice President at that company as well. Arnold insisted that before he got in each day, the pencils on his desk had to be sharpened, his alarm clock had to be wound up, and all his files had to be unlocked. Now this doesn't sound like such a difficult request.

But I mention it to explain his character traits. He was not well liked by anyone in the office, regardless of their title. I would hear him yelling at lawyers on the phone, and even his new wife was not spared his frequent wrath.

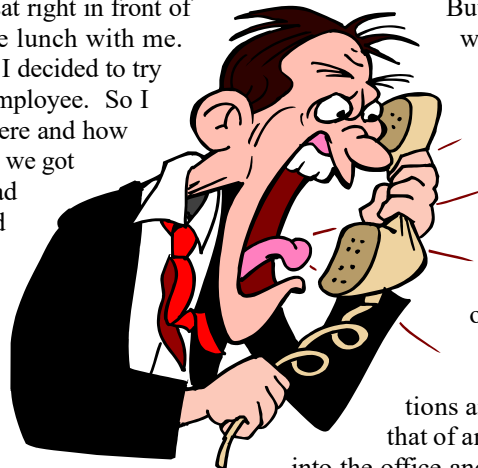
Needless to say, Arnold developed a rather notorious reputation in the Wall Street area. He had a habit of giving me nothing to do all day. And then fifteen minutes before my leaving time, he would call me into his office for work. Arnold shared an office with three other employees so it was a very crowded room.

One day, he called me into his office for instructions and the only chair available for me to sit in was that of another executive. However, the executive came

into the office and wanted his chair back. I got up and walked a few feet toward my desk to get my own chair. This greatly annoyed Arnold. "Where are you going?" he demanded. "Come back in here! I'm not finished yet." I responded by saying "Arnold, I can't take notes standing up." To which he replied, "You can and you will!" It was hard to do, but somehow I managed to do it.

It was frustrating sitting at my desk all day waiting for him to give me some work. Then, at the end of the day, being told that I would have to work an hour or more overtime for Arnold. Eventually, I left the company and got another job. Then, one day, I met a woman I had known at a different company I'd worked at. I'll call her Mary. We'd see each other on the street occasionally and stop to chat. She had heard that I had worked for Arnold Bates and would give me updates on what she had learned about him. About a year after I left the company, so did Arnold. Mary said he had really loused up an account and was fired. Over the next few years I received the continuing story. It took Arnold nine months to find another job. But it was in a different industry, real estate. However, that job lasted another nine months and he was fired from that. Mary said that she would see him roaming the streets from time to time, looking for another job. Apparently, his reputation was so well-known in the area, that no one wanted to hire him.

Like Rita, Arnold was the type of person who would make other people uncomfortable. He had gotten many assistants fired after working for him. He had no pity on them. *(Continued On Page 4)*



Dealing With Difficult People (Continued From Page 3)

But, as my grandmother used to say, “God pays debts without money.” And now he was the one to be humbled. Looking back on this now, many years later, I feel sorry for him. And that’s why God tells us to pray for our enemies. No matter how successful they may seem at first, sooner or later, they will be humbled. Remember that Jesus said, “... everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:14 NIV).

Frankly, I was in a backslidden state the year I worked for Arnold. Retrospectively, I wish that I hadn’t complained so much when Arnold wanted me to stay overtime. I should have set a better example of Christianity around him, and not been so upset when he was unreasonable. As the Apostle Peter taught us, “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us” (1 Peter 2:12 NIV). I should have smiled when treated badly, and gone the extra mile to please him. For people like Rita and Arnold are not happy in themselves, or they would not treat others with disdain and contempt. They are the ones who need Christ the most (Matthew 9:12-13)! And no matter what we may say to people, nothing glorifies Jesus more than setting a good Christian example!

To put it another way, Peter told us to “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king... Submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God” (1 Peter 2:17-20 NIV).

So what did Rita and Arnold have in common? The answer is obvious, whether they felt confident at all, they exhibited an outward show of pride. Perhaps it was a defense mechanism to make up for a feeling of inadequacy. But it caused people to dislike them. And “pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18 KJV). The Bible says, “Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalms 37:1-4 NIV).

There is nothing that God hates more than pride! It was the original sin that caused Lucifer to rebel against God and become Satan, God’s archenemy. The Lord said to him, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:12-14 KJV). And pride was the bait that Satan used to get Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. He told her, “...God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5 KJV).

When Eric and I were planning our marriage, the pastor of the church told us, in his daughter Amy’s presence (that was not her real name), that she would sing at our wedding. She never denied it, so I assumed it was all set. I wanted music that would glorify Christ. I chose “Because He Lives” and “To God Be The Glory.” Then, about

a week before the wedding, I asked her when we could talk about it. But she told me that she couldn’t do it. That she had other plans. I was worried. We had planned on having her as our soloist. Fortunately, her husband was the assistant pastor. So, when I told him what happened, he found another vocalist for me. It turned out his choice was very good. Then, several years later, my mother was telling me about an “Aglow” luncheon she had been to. Ironically, Amy was the chief speaker. I hadn’t attended the luncheon, but my mother told me that Amy gave a personal testimony. She had a beautiful voice and, for a long time, had hoped to get a recording contract. However, it hadn’t happened. Instead, God had told her that she had gotten too proud and had not been putting Him first. So He took away her beautiful singing voice. She was devastated! Finally, after much prayer and contrition, He gave it back to her. My mother added, “And she remembers you Anne.”

I was talking to a messianic rabbi one time, and he argued, “God doesn’t take away someone’s talent. He just removes the anointing.” Wrong! He clearly took away Amy’s talent and then gave it back. Frankly, I believe that’s what happened to Whitney Houston’s gorgeous voice. Toward the end of her life, she was at a [performance in Australia](#). Her singing became raspy and hard to listen to. Whitney had started her career, singing in churches. A prison inmate I know used to send me drawings he had done. Some of them were so good that I framed them and put them in my office. But a year or two later he told me that he can’t draw anything anymore. He said that he had been bragging to people about his drawing talent so much that God took it away from him.

The point is that people who act superior to others, and give us a hard time, are not to be hated. The Bible implies that we are to pity them, and pray for them. Because, “the LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)” (Isaiah 2:12 NIV). We are to have a godly love for them, because they don’t realize how dangerous their attitude is.

I remember, when I was younger, I was at my parent’s house one day. I don’t know what caused it, but I had terrible cramps. They turned out to be gas pain, which can be very painful. I was practically in tears with the pain, it was so bad. But it wasn’t just the cramps that caused me pain. My sister was sitting across the room from me, laughing. She said I was faking it, and didn’t have any pain at all. This went on for about forty minutes. Then, my Dad, who always seemed to have compassion for me when I was sick, went upstairs to get some Pepto Bismol. I drank what he handed me and ten minutes later, I was much better. About nine months later, my sister was rushed to the emergency room at the hospital. She had cramps that were much more serious than mine had been. It turned out to be Crohn’s disease, which resulted in surgery. My sister was in the hospital at least a week. And I know she suffered a lot! Eric and I visited her to show her our concern and Christian love.

My husband, Eric, had a similar experience where he used to work. Eric has sciatica, a very painful disease. He was in great pain one day at his job. Another employee accused him of faking it, and began mocking Eric. That was a big mistake because, a year or so later, the man developed sciatica himself and found out the hard way, how painful it can be.

My maternal grandfather died of Parkinson’s disease. My mother told me that her mother had said that when they were young, he used to make fun of crippled people. Then, when he was a bit older, he ended up one of them! So, in closing, the lesson is this “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21 NIV).

