

Ears that Are Sensitive to the Hurts of People

We've been discussing the Face of Grace, or to put it in another fashion, "What does grace look like?" God is called "the God of all grace" (1 Pet. 5:10), and Jesus was a one "full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14). If a "Christian" is a "little Christ," then the evidence that you are born again is your grace toward others. We've examined the mind of grace, the mouth of grace, and the eyes of grace, and are now on the ears. *A graced person has ears that are sensitive to the hurts of others.* We are quick to hear others hurting.

I. There's a huge difference between being sensitive to *your* hurts and *others'* hurts.

The world is quick to be offended by the slights of others; Christians, though, are not easily offended.

Here are some illustrations of how things in this world can "hurt" you:

Someone doesn't invite you to a wedding or party.

Someone doesn't seem to appreciate you (doesn't "Like" your Facebook post).

Someone forgets your birthday or other special day.

Someone seems stuck up or ignores you in the halls of the church building on Sunday.

Someone expresses a political opinion you think is awful (Republican or Democrat).

Someone says unkind words about you on social media.

Someone does not return your phone calls, text messages, or emails.

Someone acts like a hypocrite or exhibits bad manners.

These are hurts that come your way. How do you respond? Do you feel hurt; do you take things very

Personally, do you tell others how hurt you are by other people? These are examples of your hurt.

II. Hurting people will always tend to hurt others by their words, their actions, and their lives.

Why is that? "If you never heal from what hurt you, you'll bleed on people who didn't cut you."

What are some of the signs that people who offend you are actually people who need healing?

1. They are easily threatened so they are quick to attack with words.
2. They misread people often assuming others are against them.
3. They don't see or comprehend the pain they inflict on others.
4. They don't understand why people don't understand them.
5. They will not let down their guard, so they are always on the defensive.
6. They don't take responsibility for their behavior.
7. They are easily offended.
8. They are quick to react in anger.
9. If they feel backed in a corner on any issue, they will come out fighting.
10. They rarely have close intimate friendships.

III. A graced person ignores personal slights and moves toward people who are hurting.

It's human to feel upset with other people, but it is grace that allows you to respond differently.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a *life worthy of the calling you have received*.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one** another in love." (Ephesians 4:1-2)

"Bear with others and forgive whatever grievances you have as the Lord forgave you" (Col. 3:13)

Responding to others with grace means "bearing with" (or graciously putting up with) people. It means loving people as they are, with their quirky personalities, habits, and faults. That's grace.

You can't "bear with" or "bear up" if you have moved away. Moving toward the hurting is grace.

"Live in harmony; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).