The Problem With People (Luke 6:31)

Tony Mauck · Luke 6:31

INTRODUCTION

- Self-preoccupation lies at the heart of many of life's difficulties.
- Most problems are people problems. And the people who cause our problems are quite often us.
- We could enhance our lives by lowering our self-preoccupation a bit, and improve society by promoting a less egoic world.

1 The Need for Transformation

Ephesians 2:1; Romans 12:1–3; Philippians 2

- The problem with people is the reason why Jesus had to come and die.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Romans 12 is not negotiable. It is a part of discipleship to Jesus.
- Jesus not only wants to save you from your sins, he wants to change the way you think about things, the way you value things.
- Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but regard one another as more important than ourselves.

2 Distinguish Between Character and Personality

Acts 15

- Just because we are transformed and molding ourselves into the image of Christ, that doesn't mean that we will all be exactly the same.
- Perhaps they were both right. But even though they both might have been right on this occasion, there was a sharp disagreement that unfolded between the two.
- What is our transformation all about? It is about a new spiritual orientation. We're going to see the world from God's worldview.
- However, personality is different. Personality is rooted in genetic tendencies.
- Sometimes we dismiss our character flaws by calling them personality traits.

3 God Wants Us to Be Alike in Our Characters

- God wants us to be alike in our characters. We should have the same moral values which are taught by Jesus, the same goal of pleasing God, and the same spirit of love for others.
- The same freedom from selfishness. This is what Paul meant when he said, be of the same mind toward one another.
- It is okay to be shy. It is okay to be talkative. It is okay to like organization.
- Such things as gossip and wrath, selfishness, deception, these are not personality traits, but character traits, and God will certainly hold us accountable.

4 People That We Don’t Like

- What are we going to do with people that we don’t like?
- There’s no cookie cutter here when it comes to personality.
- You’ve been changed because of your knowledge of the Lord. You’re not the same person that you were.
- But that doesn’t mean that everybody’s personality is going to be exactly like yours.

5 No Way to Sustain Equal Relationships With Everyone

- There is no way to sustain equal relationships with every single person of the congregation.
- Jesus wasn’t equally close to all the people in his ministry. Now he wasn’t exclusive.

6 Just as You Want People to Treat You

Luke 6:31

- That person, there’s something about them that is redeemable. Because the Lord paid the price for all of us to be saved.
- Just as you want people to treat you treat them in the same way.
- What if there’s somebody in the group who doesn’t like you? How would you want them to treat you?

THE CHALLENGE

Remember that you were called to be like Christ and to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Live differently than the world around you. Let the world see that you have a different set of values than they do. Be a light.

MY NOTES