

## Christian Response to Insults/Harassment – Sept. 1, 2021

We live in a civilized world where uncivilized things happen.

We endure cyberbullying, hate speech, workplace harassment, divisive political rhetoric, etc. Insults fly freely. Harassment happens.

Assume - reason for our insults is living a Godly life; counter to culture.

“*Simp*” – someone who does too much for a person they like.

Our response? In **1 Cor. 11:1**, Paul says: “**imitate me as I imitate Christ.**”

1 - Jesus on trial – Sanhedrin & High priests. (aside: Godly people do ungodly things)

“many false witnesses came forward.” They spit in his face, hit w/fists and mocked him – “prophecy to us, Messiah – Who hit you?” **Jesus kept silent.**

(**Matthew 26:59-68**)

2 - Jesus taken to Pilate. “He **gave no answer.**” (**Matt. 27:12**)

3 – Jesus before Herod: “Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him.” (**Luke 23:11**)

4 - Jesus mocked by soldiers (robe, crown, staff) – “knelt in front, “mocked him”

Then they spit on him, took the staff & hit him again & again (**Matt. 27**)

5 - Jesus on the cross: chief priests, teachers of the law & elders “mocked him”

**Jesus kept silent.**

- He prayed “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

(**Luke 23:34**)

**1 Peter 2:23** – “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

When insulted – **imitate Jesus.** Don’t respond.

You can’t control what others say, but you can control how you respond.

1 - Be silent. It’s hard; strength.

2 - Pray for them. Pray - their understanding & our witness to make a difference

### 3 Reasons that insults are a good thing, not bad.

#### **1 – Blessings are reserved for you! \$ in the bank!**

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven**, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” – **Matt. 5:11-12**

“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that **you may inherit a blessing**.” – **1 Peter 3:9**

**Double Portion for us. Isaiah 61:7-8** - “Instead of shame, My people will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation, they will rejoice in their share; and so they will inherit a **double portion** in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs. For I, the LORD, love justice . . . .” Blessings now & in Heaven.

#### **2 – Imitating Christ **makes a difference**.**

If you’re being insulted, you’re being noticed.

Actions/words are seen. We have an impact.

“For every negative, there’s a positive.” Likely, many more positive!

#### **3 – We **please God** when act like Jesus. “My son...well pleased.” “That’s my boy!”**

**Prov. 16:7** – “When a person’s ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

#### Closing Remarks:

- Insults are intended to tear-down, hurt. Live for audience of One.

- Silence will end the controversy. Responding ramps it up.

**Prov. 12:16** TLB – “A fool is quick-tempered; a wise man stays cool when insulted.” **Stay cool & Silent.** It’s the Jesus response. And He was cool.

**Prov. 15:1** – “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

It’s easy to return fire with fire, rude comment for rude comment ....

Christians are called to do better... higher plane... imitate Jesus, Std.

Jesus is love. . . and “love is not rude.”