

# Stepping Stone, Not Submbling Blocks

## A Wake-Up Call to the Church

Jesus didn't mince words when it came to the way we affect others spiritually. In Matthew 18:6, He said,

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Let that sink in for a minute. That's not Jesus being metaphorical. That's Jesus making it *crystal clear*—what we say, what we post, how we act... it *matters*. It matters not just for our own walk but for those watching, following, or quietly trying to figure out who Jesus really is through our lives.

This hit me hard recently as I was scrolling social media and saw a post dripping in sarcasm and spiritual arrogance—ironically from someone with a bio that included “Jesus follower.” It wasn't heresy, it wasn't blasphemy... but it *was* a stumbling block—not because the theology was off, but because the *tone* was. It wasn't seasoned with grace. It wasn't helpful. It was just... loud.

**And it made me think: How often am I a stumbling block?**

We tend to think of stumbling blocks as big moral failures, scandals, or wolves in sheep's clothing. And sure, those are real. But stumbling blocks are often far more subtle. It could be:

- **The prideful tone in our “correct” theology**
- **The public sin we never repent of**
- **The meme that belittles instead of builds**
- **The legalism we impose that makes grace look like a grind**
- **The lifestyle that shouts *me* louder than it reflects *Him***

Paul addresses this, too. In Romans 14, he talks about not using our Christian liberty in ways that cause others to stumble. “If your brother is grieved by what you eat,” he writes, “you are no longer walking in love.” (Romans 14:15)

It's not about watering down truth—it's about *elevating love*. We don't compromise the Gospel, but we *do* consider how our conduct affects those around us because to someone struggling, doubting, or spiritually limping, your words or your lifestyle might be the thing that either *points them to Christ*—or makes them turn away.

Here's a simple filter I've started using:

**“Does this help someone love Jesus more—or just notice me?”**

That question cuts through a lot of noise. Is my sarcasm helpful? Is my post about Jesus—or my ego? Do freedom *and* humility mark my lifestyle? Because it's easy to claim boldness when we're really just hiding pride behind it.

Christianity isn't performative—it's transformative. And the way we live, teach, love, and lead should reflect that. We are *not* called to be perfect. But we *are* called to be intentional.

So here's the challenge—for me, and maybe for you too: Let's live like *stepping stones*, not stumbling blocks. Let's be the kind of believers who make it easier, not harder, for people to believe Jesus is real, powerful, and *good*.

Because the truth is—someone out there is watching your life and wondering if this Jesus thing is legit. Let's show them that He is.

THE TATTOOED APOLOGIST

