

Wednesday Word

Romans 14:13 *“Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.”*

When I was growing up my dad had a job as a Customer Service Representative. That was a nice way to say: “Complaint Department.” He worked for an auto part manufacturing plant in Nally Valley Tacoma and held this position for years. It was very stressful and frustrating but the pay was good so he stuck around for over 20 years.

I remember he would come home some days very frustrated and overwhelmed from his day. People would call all day with complaints that could easily been remedied with further investigation, communication or understanding of the product. He eventually left that job for sales. He told me later on that he didn’t miss the job but he sure missed the pay. He always told me that it seemed people loved to complain because it gave them power. This always stuck with me.

If I was honest, in fact if we were all honest, we can all have complaints about something. While some are warranted, it is the spirit and attitude with which we present our issue. If we are not careful, we can use complaints to hold power over others and sway situations in our favor.

My pastor growing up, Bill Wolfson, would challenge me to “make a godly appeal” instead of submitting a complaint. This allowed me to share my heart in a way that was not malicious or divisive. I was encouraged to approach the person or situation with the heart and perspective of Christ and share my thoughts in a godly way. Sometimes things would change, or times, nothing changed. But what remained was Jesus Christ at the center of the issue.

How do we handle issues in our lives that would normally issue a complaint? How do we present our perspective without damaging relationships, trust or the community at large?

Learning this is foundational to having healthy interactions.

Let’s work on this together!

I love you and God loves You!

Pastor Eric Lundberg