



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Admit Wrong or Blame Someone Else

Eve was deceived. She took fruit from the tree she was commanded not to eat from and then gave the fruit to her husband Adam and he also ate of the tree he was commanded not to eat from.

We all know what happened next. When God questioned the couple as to why they hid from Him and how they knew they were naked, God asked a direct question "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" (Genesis 3:11)

It is at moments like this we can tell the truth; blame someone else; lie or admit we have done wrong. The easy route is to blame someone else for our own wrong doing. "The woman whom You gave me, she gave me of the tree and I ate." (Genesis 3:12) "The serpent deceived me and I ate." (Genesis 3:13) It is way too easy to blame someone or something else for our behavior. Aaron blamed the people for the golden calf, "You know the people that they are set on evil" (Exodus 32:22) Saul blamed the people for not utterly destroying the Amalekites, "the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen" (1 Samuel 15:15)

We have all more than likely have down this. It is much easier to try to place blame upon someone else. Doing so is an attempt to draw focus away from my actions and place it upon another person or even an object "stupid hammer".

Religious author John Killinger once told of a minor league baseball team manager who yanked his center fielder from the game because of his poor performance.

The manager took the center field position himself and the first ball that came to him took a bad hop and hit him in the mouth. The next ball was a high fly ball that he lost in the sun and it bounced off of his head. The next ball was a line drive that he charged and it went right past his glove and hit him in the eye. He was furious and ran back in to the dugout and shouted at the center fielder, "You idiot! You've got center field so messed up that even I can't do anything with it."

We have a saying, "It takes a big person to admit when they are wrong". What we have done may not even have been a sin, just a simple mistake or misfortune but we refuse to be held accountable for it and we do sin. And if it is a sin, we had better admit it our wrong.

1 John 1:9-10 reads "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." God expects us to admit when we have done wrong, to acknowledge our actions and to own up to our actions. That can be a hard thing to do but it is a necessary thing to do, it is the right thing to do.

STACY

## "Who's On First?"

- by Greg Gwin

Abbott and Costello, the famous comedy team of the previous generation, are most remembered for their hilarious routine about baseball. It was a classic example of the confusion that results when people aren't communicating "on the

same wave-length." It's not uncommon, even today, to hear people remark "who's on first?" – an allusion to that comedy duo - when confronted with a confusing situation.

This brings to mind some lessons we need to learn - lessons concerning our efforts to teach the Bible to lost people. It is very possible that we will begin teaching folks at a level they are not prepared to receive. We ought to be careful about assuming that a student knows certain fundamentals. If we start with a faulty foundation of knowledge, we are certain to run into difficulty as we try to move our students on to the things that are *"hard to be understood"* (2 Peter 3:10). We should follow the example of Philip, who determined his student's level of understanding and *"began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus"* (Acts 8:35).

We need to be sure that we are 'using Bible words in Bible ways'. If we are careless in this matter, we are opening the door to unsound conclusions. For instance, if we talk about the birth of a baby and refer to it as a 'miracle', we may later be confronted by the argument that all the true Bible miracles can be dismissed with a natural explanation. A birth is, in fact, a marvelous thing, but it is not a miracle in the Biblical sense. (Only the virgin birth of Jesus would be accurately proclaimed a miracle.) So, again, we must learn to be careful with terminology.

Finally, we should be cautious about using phrases and jargon that are very familiar to us, but may leave a student in utter confusion. It would be a shame to waste a good teaching opportunity simply because we weren't careful about analyzing our student's ability to comprehend the message. There is a *"time when ye ought to be teachers"* (Hebrews 5:12). And good teachers *KNOW* their students.

Pray that God will help us find the good and honest hearts, and that He will give us wisdom to use every opportunity to the fullest.

## Helping Others

Randy Yerby

Outside the will of God, there's nothing I want. Inside the will of God, there's nothing I fear."

A.W. Tozer

1 Thessalonians 4:3...7 – "For this is the will of God, your sanctification(that we be set apart)...for God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."

The apostle Peter implores us to be holy as God is holy. Holiness starts with us modifying what our desires truly are. No longer as a follower of God should I desire those things that trap men's souls, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or to be snared by the pride of life. Instead, my desire must be to be pleasing to the God of all creation. To be bound in a loving relationship with God that defies mere words and challenges human understanding. My desire is to be set apart from this world to want nothing this world values greater than the will of God.

All of this is made possible by God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Parkersburg, WV