

*How does God want us to deal with people that get offended for our beliefs?*

Christ is our example of patience and he expects us to learn from him. The apostle Paul wrote: Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ (2 Th 3:5).

It is preferable for men to come to the Lord early in life but some come in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Joseph in scripture (a type of Christ) practiced patience through great trials. Though most believers will not become Prime Ministers, they can be put into a position of influence over others. In one's sphere of influence he can make all the difference in a lost and dying world. People notice one standing for the Lord.

The Christian is called--not to be a lawyer--but a *witness* (1 Pe 3:15). He should be prepared to suffer to glorify God knowing that God works all things together for good to those who love him (Ro 8:28). The believer knows that he has a "better and an enduring substance" (Heb 10:34).

Joseph told his fearful brothers: You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive (Ge 50:20). Christians must be faithful to preach and teach the word of God (Eze 33:33). Is speaking or teaching your gift? Then, speak and teach. Is service your gift? Then, serve. Be found working when the Lord returns (Mt 24:46).

Jesus said:

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake (Mt 5:11). No one feels very blessed when he is hated for the name of Jesus; but, the Christian is to live by God's word not feelings (Mt 4:4).

Preach his death, burial and resurrection (Gal. 5:11; Gal. 6:12) unashamedly. God is not ashamed to call the believer a friend (Jn 15:15); so, neither should the believer be ashamed to be identified with him (Heb 4:15).

It is fair to ask another to examine his faith (2 Co 13:5). Such a question demonstrates genuine concern.

Adrian Rogers said: "In American, the only sin is to call sin sin."

The Christian is to care for those whom God loves.

The apostle Peter wrote:

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 1 Pe 5:1-4

Bob Enyart said: "Truth is hate to those who hate the truth." Love your neighbor—even if he hates you for it. Prove your love by telling him the truth (Mt 22:39, Ac 20:20).