

“Before You Concur”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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How many times have you said, “That’s not right!” when you hear of someone’s troubling story? It’s difficult at times for us to understand the mistreatment of a person who, as we perceive, has been denied justice.

As you know, a person can tell you their side of a story and make it sound unfair by explaining their side of it. However, due to their emotions, our natural response and temptation is to judge it before we have all the facts.

Teenagers have cried to their friend’s parents about how unreasonable and unfair their parents or teachers are. When you investigate the situation, you realize the teenager was upset because they couldn’t manipulate their parents or teachers to have their own way. So, they make up elaborate stories that pull you into their web of deceit and lies, putting you on the wrong side. If you live long enough, those teenagers become adults and masters of deceit.

I once saw a preview of the Dr. Phil show, several years ago, when a woman was trying to sway Dr. Phil’s opinion. She was confronted with the truth while playing the innocent victim. She became angry and left the stage, going in the wrong direction. Dr. Phil called her on it, so her response was to burst into tears and crash to the floor. It was over the top and reminded me of the stunts and performances of teenagers out of control, attempting to convince others to see their way.

With eyes open, whenever someone shares a melodramatic story with you, before you get on the bandwagon, breathe, listen prayerfully, and breathe again. Gather all the facts before you make an emotional commitment, remain neutral, ask lots of questions, and offer prayer. In other words, be a good listener and ask the Lord to give you wisdom. As they say, “Cream will always rise to the top.”

Use this life lesson: Before you say, “That’s not right!” remember to search for the true facts. Sometimes, you can let your emotions cloud your judgment and later discover you made an unwise decision.

May the wisdom of God help you in mending the broken. **James 3:17 NKJV** *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

Celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club