

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Acceptance

"Change the changeable, accept the unchangeable, and remove yourself from the unacceptable."
– Denis Waitley

"Deep down you already know the truth, you just have to accept it." – unknown

"I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I cannot accept not trying." – unknown

"Sometimes you have to shut up, swallow your pride and accept that you're wrong. It's not giving up. It's called growing up." – unknown

"Some people think that to be strong is to never feel pain. In reality, the strongest people are the ones who feel it, understand it, and accept it." – unknown

All of us know that there are some things we encounter in life that are hard to accept. For example, it is hard to accept that with each passing day you are growing older and one day you will die (Eccl. 3:2; Heb. 9:27). It is hard to accept that not everyone will like you, especially if you stand for Christ (John 3:20). It is hard to accept that people have no interest in eternity, even when you teach them about Hell (Matt. 25:46).

People do not like hearing the truth. It often upsets them and aggravates them. They would much rather live a life how they want to live and be told that God will be fine with that. They take the concept of acceptance to an extreme, and want God to accept sin and sinful living.

One of the greatest challenges we face is trying to get someone to obey the Gospel. You seek to present the biblical truths, you pray about it, and hope that God will grant the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7). But we must remember that man is a free moral agent, and unfortunately, has the right to say, no. It can be so upsetting, especially as you contemplate them sacrificing eternal life.

One of the keys to getting people to accept the truth is to help them see their state and standing before God without Christ. You hope and pray that they will be humble about it. Humility is the key to acceptance. Jesus even said on the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Pet. 5:5-6).

In the famed Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-8), our Lord made reference to the potential of the seed falling upon four types of soil. Only one produces fruit. Even today, you may well find one out of four will accept the Gospel message.