



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“Unintended Consequences!”

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Verse for the week: Ephesians 4:15 (NLT) “Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”

I lived in the Detroit metro area for four years. I loved going down to Greek Town and seeing T-Shirts that said “*Don’t mess with me I vacation in Detroit!*” Or “*Don’t mess with me I have relatives in Detroit!*” (Pastor Darren would say Flint, MI). I learned very quickly that people in the Detroit Metro Area could be very blunt. A person must develop tough skin when they live there. There are a lot of people that are blunt. According to the Urban Dictionary “*a blunt person is the realest person you will ever meet, they don't sugar coat anything and say what they mean!*” Honesty is a great quality, but I’ve observed some people having uncontrolled honesty. They tell everyone what’s on their mind no matter what it is or where they are. This can be very dangerous because it is like uncontrolled heat—it can injure and even destroy. It can have unintended consequences like destroying friendships, relationships, and reputations. What’s sad is that sometimes a blunt person isn’t necessarily stating the truth, they are stating their opinion or their perception. Mason Cooley, American literary academic and aphorist, said: “*A blunt statement can be as false as any other.*” There is a time and place for honesty, and during those times of honesty we need to make sure the intention is love. **2 Peter 1:5-7 (NLT)** says, “**In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly with love for everyone.**” This means we may have to think through what we are going to say (and probably why we feel the need to say it) and choose words that are not “brutally honest.” I write from experience on this issue. Because I was “brutally honest” and did not follow the advice written in the Bible, I ended up damaging friendships and it even affected that church. Even though I apologized, the damage had been done. I needed to remember the verse from **Proverbs 17:28 (NLT)** which says “**Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent...**” If we struggle with the right words, then maybe we should consider keeping our mouth shut to avoid unintended consequences.

Question to ask yourself: Is there someone you have been brutally honest with that you need to apologize to?



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