

FRATERNAL CORRECTION AND SPEAKING OUT

This might be one of the most challenging themes we face as human beings; our relationship with one another, correcting each other, and moving forward. It is not as simple as it might seem.

Today's readings deal with person to person encounters. As human beings we are subject to react and act either positively or negatively according to the magnitude of the situation. It might hurt both parties involved in finding solutions. All should be handled in a caring manner if we want to have a positive outcome. We have *RESPONSIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY* to one another as brothers and sisters. *WE have to get involved in the LIVES of one another in this journey here on earth.* Many times we tend to mind our own business thus avoiding conflicts; but as human beings we cannot do without each other. *NO ONE IS AN ISLAND in this world, hence we cannot avoid one another. We have a responsibility to each other.*

Today's readings challenge us with three different responsibilities:

SPEAKING OUT

RESPECTING

HEALING.

We have a moral and spiritual responsibility like being a watchman of each other to **WARN** of dangers one might be involved in.

Who says it will be accepted positively by the recipient? Not at all?

Responsibility of speaking the *TRUTH about RIGHT and WRONG whether in society or to the individual is the only human Christian way out of the situation.*

This is what our first reading is talking about - CONFRONTING IN A CARING MANNER.

In the second reading, Paul gives us a list of duties of love TOWARD one another:

-DO NOT KILL

-DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

-DO NOT STEAL or COVET OTHERS PROPERTY.

All these tell us how we should relate with others – with integrity and honesty.

The gospel on the other hand goes a step further in dealing with person to person *CONFLICTS and RESOLUTIONS*. The Lord gives us ways and means to reach amicable solutions in our conflicts.

Try to sort out differences between each other.

In this way we attempt to keep it private, thus avoiding *gossip, slander, and detraction*.

If no solution is reached, involve a MEDIATOR who acts as a BRIDGE.

If this fails *INVOLVE MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY (family, friends, church leaders); an official body who has a right to know*.

If the individual fails to listen to all these attempts then you resort to PRAYER and leave the judgement to God for JUSTICE AND JUDGEMENT.

The call is to try ALL channels toward reconciliation in order to win your brother or sister back.

This is the Christian way of dealing with conflicts.

We must NOT SEEK REVENGE but resolutions and mending of conflicts.

We must NOT STAND and WATCH one destroying self or society.

Keeping QUIET is not a SOLUTION, we have a responsibility to one another.

THE GREATEST HARM WE CAN DO TO PEOPLE WHEN THEY FACE SPIRITUAL or SOCIAL DANGERS IS TO DO NOTHING.

DON'T LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

GIVE A SHOULDER.

SAVE LIVES.

