

“Not Like Me: Uncivil War”

By Eric Bryant

Mosaic (Peppermint-Filled Pinatas series)

Show “Uncivil War Promo”

We get defensive even when the other person didn't intend to be offensive.

“we'll see” vs. “that's sweet” 10 great years of marriage plus those other 3

“How have your relationships changed while writing the book?” fought more with my wife

Debbie's Questions (gain weight? Disfigured in a car wreck? Yoda? I became a man?)

Rom. 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Rom. 12:18 –Live at peace with everyone as far as it depends on you.

Live in harmony. Do what is right in the eyes of everybody. So often we fight with people in our minds before we ever actually talk! We assume the worst! Skeptic email.

Scott – Grandma's house, Aunt Lillie, double or nothing, wrestling, “sorry I beat you up”

Proximity does not guarantee intimacy

Mt 5:9 - "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

Another way to say this would be, the sons of God are peacemakers. Are you a peacemaker?

Forgave debt

Do you create or resolve conflict in your relationships?

If you are a follower of Christ, can your family and those closest to you tell by the way you treat them?

Talk it through. Communicate. Make an effort.

Matthew 18:15f - “If your brother has something against you, go to him...” NIV

Mt 18:15 - "If your brother **sins**, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother." NASB

Mt 5:23-24 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

Do you have something against someone?

Does anyone have something against you?

What are you going to do about it?

Forgive. Talk things through. Say your sorry.

Our relationships with people affects our relationship with God just as our relationship with God should improve our relationship with people.

John 17:20-23 – love for each other bubble over into lives of those not yet following Christ

Jesus prayed for us – for you and me! What do you think this prayer would be? Asking the Father to protect us and bring us safely into heaven? Asking the Father to move us from wealthy to wealthier, from health to better health? Asking the Father to give us so much knowledge that we would win Jesus trivia contests everywhere we went?

How many of us have experienced unity in our churches? The world thinks, why go to church, I have plenty of fights already.

We need to learn to love people – even those with whom we have conflict. In fact, Jesus takes things one step further, we should love our enemies. Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.”

Do you have enemies? How do you treat them?

Some are determined to remain enemies – either refusing to forgive or refusing to ask for forgiveness. Are you willing to meet to resolve issues? Are you willing to forgive even if they never ask for forgiveness?

One of the more interesting responsibilities I have taken on is interacting with critics. Every once in a while we would receive a negative email or hear of a website which was attacking us. For the most part, just initiating communication seemed to help resolve things. Ever since Erwin was listed as the 12th most influential evangelical Christian leader in the United States, we have been receiving a great deal more of these emails and hearing about anti-Mosaic blogs. Most are critics we’ve never met, or anonymous people who have never contacted us read one of Erwin’s books or even read through our Baptist doctrinal statement online, or people who left our church years ago. With blogs, we have increased our ability to spread gossip and slander with even greater speed. What Al Gore meant for good, we have used for evil. This new group often doesn’t contact us because they don’t want to hear the truth about our theology or the reasons behind decisions we have made.

What is really sad is how quickly we believe what we see in writing. If it is written down, we believe it as true. Even this week, a couple of people who are a part of this community asked me about our theology. I was so grateful they would ask, but I fear there are far more who come across something on the internet and not ask and just assume the worst.

Let me just clarify – not everything you read on the Internet is true. Just because someone wrote about it on their blog, doesn’t mean it’s true. I think most of us have now realized that just because we receive it in an email doesn’t mean it’s true. Have you discovered this yet? Anyone ever receive an email promising money from Bill Gates if you forwarded it? Anyone here forward it? Anyone here receive any money from it? Anyone receive an email threatening death unless the email was sent? Anyone choose not to forward? Anyone here know anyone who died because they didn’t send it?

Just to be clear, we aren't emergent, postmodern, gen X, new age, or feng shui. We are a 60 year old church in Los Angeles. We love Jesus. We seek to live out the Scriptures. We are trying to serve our city and connect people in our city to God. Bereans, Thessalonians, Athenians – different approaches in different cities

Don't defend online.

When someone complains about another person, send them to that person.

At Origins, an anti-Mosaic blogger was in our midst. Erwin – “you are welcome here. Hope you have felt encouraged and loved while you have been with us.” “The world needs Christ more than I need to be loved.”

I Cor. 6:7 “Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?”

How we treat each other matters. When we fight among ourselves we are communicating to an unbelieving world that Jesus doesn't make a difference in our lives.

We demand our rights. What do we deserve? Nothing. Death and Hell.

We would rather be right than make things right.

Paul and Barnabas split – no letters from Paul denouncing Barnabas or vice versa

Turkey martyrs. Wife of the German missionary “Forgive them for they know not what they do.” In a country where blood-for-blood revenge is as normal as breathing, many many reports have come to the attention of the church of how this comment of Susanne Tilman has changed lives. One columnist wrote of her comment, “She said in one sentence what 1000 missionaries in 1000 years could never do.”

Are we willing to love people who hate us? Are we willing to show grace and compassion to people bent on our destruction?

Conflict from misunderstanding, genuine malice, or even genuine love.

Spanking Dad. fight with Dad before wedding

Conflict not because of too little care but because he cared so much.