



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

Have you ever come to a wrong conclusion about someone or a situation? I know I have! We need to continue to grow spiritually. Paul warned Timothy, “Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.” (I Tim. 5:22) When we hear or think something, we need to be careful that we don’t react wrongly! Someone tells us something, and many times we make an assumption of what was said. We come to a conclusion in our minds and react to that conclusion. What if the assumption was wrong? What if we came to a wrong conclusion? That means our conclusion and reaction from that point is wrong. I’ve known many a person to wander off into sin and sinful attitudes because they came to a wrong conclusion in their own minds about an individual or situation, but believed it to be true.

In Nehemiah 6, Nehemiah had repaired the wall of Jerusalem. Sanballat, an enemy of Nehemiah, didn’t want the wall to be rebuilt. He tried, along with a few others, to stop it. He accused Nehemiah of something that wasn’t true and began spreading the news. Nehemiah answers, “Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing in your own mind.” (Neh. 6:8) Sanballat came to his own conclusion on the basis of his own thinking! He was “*inventing*” or making them up from his own thinking. He didn’t have a sincere desire to investigate things to see if they were really true. He had evil intent in his heart and wanted Nehemiah hurt. It led him off into sin along with others who listened to his wrong conclusion!

We must be careful ourselves. A spiritual person will be careful and *not lay hands on someone too quickly!* A spiritual person will make sure of the facts before they come to a conclusion. That’s a person with a sincere faith. I’ve witnessed many over the years, who have come to conclusions about situations or people, and they were completely wrong. The worse part is their conclusion led them into a mindset such that you couldn’t talk with them about the situation or individual! Nothing you could say would change their thinking because they believed it to be that way and they set their mind that way. The worst part is it will cost them their souls!

To grow spiritually, make sure of things before you react. Don’t assume something is a certain way without the facts. Make sure the facts aren’t what you make them to be (or what someone else tells you), but what they really are. Jesus said we are to go to our brother if we have a problem with them (Matt. 5:23-24). Don’t assume anything you hear! If you have a problem with your brother, don’t tell someone else, ***go to your brother!!!*** If you don’t go to your brother, then let it go, never to allow it to affect you again. (Eph. 4:31-32) That’s a sincere faith and a spiritual person. Otherwise, you will end up coming to wrong conclusions and condemning your own soul. Think about it!!!

Brent