

LESSON 13

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

TODAY'S KEY WORD:

People

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

Will you please stay in Christ's Church, even when members and leaders are not Christlike?

"We will find examples of imperfect people who went forward with faith and allowed God to work through them to accomplish His work. In doing so, we will see better how He can work through imperfect people like you and me."

Quentin L. Cook, BYU-Idaho Devotional, June 12, 2018



There was only one perfect person: Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

All quotes: David A. Bednar, October 2006

1. What should you do if you are "insulted, mistreated, snubbed, or disrespected"?
2. Why is "it ultimately impossible for another person to offend you or to offend me"?
3. Why is "to be offended is a choice we make; it is not a condition inflicted or imposed upon us by someone or something else"?
4. Why are "there are things to act and things to be acted upon (see 2 Nephi 2:13-14)"?
5. Why is "in many instances, choosing to be offended is a symptom of a much deeper and more serious spiritual malady"?
6. Why is "the Savior is the greatest example of how we should respond to potentially offensive events or situations"?

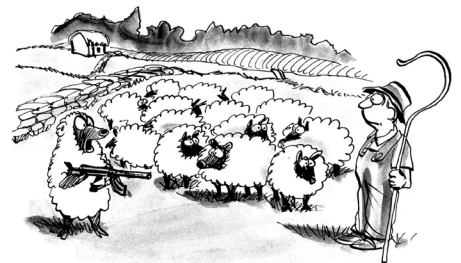
QUOTE OF THE DAY



Some might say, "I know a member of your Church who is a hypocrite. I could never join a church that had someone like him as a member."

If you define hypocrite as someone who fails to live up perfectly to what he or she believes, then we are all

hypocrites. None of us is quite as Christlike as we know we should be. But we earnestly desire to overcome our faults and the tendency to sin. With our heart and soul we yearn to become better with the help of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Come Join With Us," October 2013)



"It's your leadership style we can't stand. Change it, or we're gone."

Are you internally or externally “active” in the Church? Or both? Internally means you are converted to Christ and have a personal relationship with Him. Externally means you attend church and do things others can see.



BE CONVERTED TO CHRIST, NOT PEOPLE

QUIZ: Would you still be converted to the doctrine of Jesus Christ AND still remain active in His Church, if any of the following things happened to you personally?

YES, I would stay active in the church if this happened.



Yes

NO, I would probably stop being active in the church, if this happened to me.



No

CHURCH MEMBERS

A member offends me.

I have no friends in my ward, only acquaintances.

Nobody ever sits by me at Church.

I am required to attend a family ward as a single person.

I do not have a Church calling.

Nobody talks to me before, during or after the two-hour block.

I am not invited to ward parties and activities.

My ministering brothers or sisters never visit, call or text me.

A member gave a talk in sacrament meeting that was improper or offends me.

I do not feel needed or wanted in my ward or stake.

My ward was split and all my friends were put in the other ward.

I was abused in the Scouting, Young Men's or Young Women's program.

Members interrogate me as to why I did not serve a mission.

I feel shunned because I did not vote for a particular political party.

A teacher never calls on me in class, even when I raise my hand.

I do not feel loved in my ward.

Some members are hypocrites; they act different outside of church.

I am not part of any clique: long-timers, couples with kids, RMs, etc.

People in my ward gossip and spread rumors about me.

I feel judged because I am different: divorced, ugly, overweight, gay, tattooed, etc.

Yes

No

CHURCH LEADERS

My bishop is an arrogant, cocky man who does not care about me or visit me.

My bishop's wife is overtly proud that her husband is bishop.

A counselor in the bishopric is insensitive.

I was released from my church calling rudely, abruptly, or prematurely.

A leader offends me.

My bishop pulled me into his office and wrongly chastised me in private.

A leader in the ward berated me in public in front of others during class.

My bishop or General Authority was excommunicated.

HOMework

In your study journal, create two lists: **GOOD PEOPLE**—List church members, leaders and teachers from your current or past wards and stakes who have had a positive impact in your life and influenced your life for the better—people who have brought you to Christ because of their Christlike words and actions.

MEAN PEOPLE—List church members, leaders and teachers from your current or past wards and stakes who have had a negative impact in your life and influenced your life for the worse—people who did not act like Christians and have made you consider leaving the Church because of their unchristian words and actions. FINAL ASSIGNMENT: **Forgive and forget offensive leaders and members.**

