

Freedom from Identifying and Assigning Motives



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With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not my own self (I Corinthians 4:3).

When we seek to identify motives in others, what we actually may be doing is “*evil surmising*” or “*wicked suspicions*” (I Timothy 6:4). That’s why we can’t start with, or count on the heart as being the FOCUS in our relationships together “*in Christ.*” We must come back to *Christ* as our FOCUS. If we FOCUS on Christ, He can be counted on for producing grace and edification. Our attempts to identify our hearts, our motives are unsure; but Christ is sure!

Suppose we had *that* as our FOCUS, instead of our own hearts and motives! What might be the results of our relationships in Christ?

Well has C.S. Lewis written:

Humans are very seldom either totally sincere or totally hypocritical. Their moods change, their motives are mixed, and they are often themselves quite mistaken as to what their motives are.

To that we say, Amen! How liberating to be freed from the bondage of our own hearts! Even our apostle would not judge himself – he left it with the Lord, Who alone knows the answer to these things!

We have been *freed* to know Christ – something sure! – and to have our motives in *Him*. We have many precious things together in Christ – things that we can richly enjoy together if we keep our eyes on *Him!*

So, if I *really* want to get to know the *REAL* you better, I simply need to get to know Christ better; if you *really* want to get to know the *real* me better, you need to get to know Christ better; and if I want to get to know the *real* “me,” I need to open my Bible and get to know *HIM!*

If we approach our relationships in any other way than “*in Christ*,” we will approach them from a carnal viewpoint. If we seek to know one another *in Adam*, we *WILL* find carnality – but this is *NOT* who we *really* are. So, if we seek for folks merely to reveal their “hearts” – and they oblige us – we will risk becoming continually disillusioned. However, if we choose to live with our brothers and sisters the same way that God does – which is “*in Christ*” – the conflict will cease. At least it will cease in our own hearts – the *real* us – which is Christ. Then, even if our brothers or sisters are not enjoying the fullness of their *TRUE* person, *we* can love them as who they *really* are, in spite of how they are “acting!”

Anything less than this will be to no avail. We will simply be using our human reasoning to lay forth the conditions by which we will have supposed “spiritual” relationships – conditions by which we will accept one another – and we will use these human, carnal standards to judge one another.

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