

Where People Are

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15).

Here Paul, the apostle, encourages us to respond to people where they are. We are to relate to the situation and state in which we find others. He goes on to say,

"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16).

We are exhorted to *"condescend to men of low estate."* For us to be otherwise would be conceited, or self-centered.

Christ lived in this truth. He was the Master at identifying with people. A prime example can be seen when the Lord Jesus Christ was at the tomb of Lazarus. The Lord of Life came to the weeping loved ones of Lazarus and wept with them. Thus, the shortest verse in the Bible,

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

The context shows just how Jesus responded to Mary and Martha.

"When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!" (John 11:33-36).

Jesus would soon raise Lazarus from the dead, but in the mean time He would simply identify with those in sorrow, and meet them where they were. Meeting people where they are is a divine undertaking.

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