



Series: Hard Truths | Big Help

INTRODUCTION

There is a painful assumption most believers carry early in life:

“If I do right, people will understand.”

If I: explain clearly... speak kindly... act consistently... obey the Bible faithfully...
... then others will see my heart and motive and understand...

This week’s hard truth is one the older generation knows very well:

You will not always be understood – even if you are doing right.

1. Bible Example – Jesus Christ – perfect yet MISUNDERSTOOD!

Isaiah 53:3 – “He is **despised... rejected of men; a man of sorrows... acquainted with grief...**”

John 10:20 – “And many of them said, **He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?**”

John 7:5 – “For **neither did his brethren believe in him.**”

Matthew 27:45-50 – “... **Eli, Eli, lama... Let be, let us see whether Elias will come...**”

Insights:

- ✓ If anyone deserved universal understanding, it was Jesus Christ.
- ✓ They called holiness-**evil**... they called mercy-**weakness**... they called truth-**blasphemy**.
- ✓ Even His own family misunderstood Him!

Key Truths

- ✓ If the sinless Son of God was misunderstood, you will be too.
- ✓ Being misunderstood is not proof of failure. Sometimes it is evidence of faithfulness.

2. Bible Example – David – loyal yet labeled a THREAT!

1 Samuel 18:9 – “And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.”

Insights:

- ✓ He served Saul faithfully – he defeated Goliath, soothed the king’s spirit, honored him.
- ✓ David’s humility was interpreted as **ambition** – his loyalty was interpreted as **conspiracy**.
- ✓ He was hunted not because he was doing wrong... but because he was doing right.

Key Truth

- ✓ You can have pure motives and still be misunderstood as though they were wicked.

3. Bible Example – Paul – faithful yet CRITICIZED!

1 Corinth 4:3 – “But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you...”

1 Corinth 4:4 – “... but he that judgeth me is the Lord.”

2 Corinth 10:10 – “...say they...but **his bodily presence is weak...his speech contemptible.**”

Insights:

- ✓ He preached Christ boldly, yet he was accused of weakness, instability, and dishonesty.
- ✓ Paul learned you cannot serve God and manage everyone’s opinion.

Key Truth

- ✓ At some point, you must decide whose evaluation of you matters most?

4. WHY MISUNDERSTANDING HURTS SO MUCH

Misunderstanding wounds your identity. Being misunderstood often feels catastrophic.

We often desire:

... belonging... affirmation... relationship peace...

We live in a culture shaped by:

... instant feedback... social media approval... public conversation... constant visibility

5. THE OLDER GENERATION

Listen to their Testimonies:

- ✓ “I was criticized but now I am so thankful to God.”
- ✓ “It was painful being misunderstood, but I grew.”
- ✓ “The pain of misunderstanding is temporary, but the regret of compromise is lasting.”

1 John 3:13

*Marvel not, brethren,
if the world hate you.*

- ✓ YOUR TESTIMONY:

6. PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR ALL GENERATIONS

- ✓ Concern yourself with God’s judgment. **1 Corinth 4:4** – *God is your judge; He sees your motives.*
- ✓ Examine yourself. **Acts 5:29; 24:16** – *Ask honest questions – Am I wrong biblically? Or unpopular?*
- ✓ Accept that some people don’t like your light. **John 3:20** – *Conviction exposes compromise.*
- ✓ Let time reveal the truth. **Matthew 25:21** – *Joseph was vindicated, David crowned, Paul proven.*

To the younger generations:

Expect disappointment as you grow in Christ; stop chasing validation from compromisers.

To the older generations:

Be an example for the younger believers; share your personal testimony of this truth.