

Transformed

Do Right, Let The Chips Fall Where They May

It was a busy Saturday afternoon for my wife, Alicia, and me. We were hosting a cookout as part of our church ministry. In the south, we fry fish. And we take pride in it! Granted, anything deep fried is not good for your cholesterol level, but by golly, if I fry it, it's going to taste good.

I had prepared enough food for the 50+ college students that were beginning to arrive. Alicia was busy in the kitchen making homemade ice cream, and her famous Four-Layer Delight which is just absolute goodness in the form of whipped cream and chocolate pudding on a pecan base.

It was hectic, a little stressful, but we were smiling. That's when my cellphone rang. At the time, I owned two veterinary clinics. According to caller ID, on the other end of the phone was one of my best clients who professionally shows dogs. I knew that one of her dogs was near-term pregnant, and she had a waiting list of people lined up to buy one of the puppies. My immediate fear was that her dog was in dystocia, and there was no way I could do anything about it. At least, I knew that if I left my wife to finish cooking while I did a C-section that my marriage likely would not last!

So the next dilemma I had was whether to answer the phone at all. My voicemail gave the number of an emergency clinic, but hoping for the best, and thinking maybe I could give some advice, I answered the phone.

"No good deed goes unpunished." The dog was in dystocia and the client was not happy that I would not meet her immediately to do a C-section. I explained that I simply could not perform the procedure. She angrily hung up the phone and rushed the dog to the emergency clinic. None of the puppies survived the ordeal.

A couple of weeks later, I got a certified letter from the State Veterinary Board. The client had submitted my name to the state to have my license revoked. This incident was unfortunate, and it hurt my soul that this happened to this client. I had done nothing legally or ethically wrong, but I had to spend the next few months in legal proceedings to prove it.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." -Romans 12: 17-18, NIV

I can promise you that my immediate temptation to the certified letter was to react in anger. I wanted to call the client and give her a piece of my mind. Not only had she turned me in, but she turned the other veterinarians in the area too, because none of them were available either. The other vets encouraged me to write a letter signed by all of them telling the client she was in the wrong and should be ashamed of her actions. It was only through the grace of God, that I did not write that letter.

Instead, I sent a conciliatory letter expressing my sorrows and again explained the unfortunate set of circumstances that led to the event. I apologized, even though I had done nothing

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wrong, and asked her to forgive me. The sole reason I did this was to uphold my witness because I was sure she was not a believer. She did not forgive me. And never came back to the clinic again.

Now, fast forward several years. I had since sold the clinics and began teaching at the local university. Due to a merger at the school, I got a new boss as dean of our department. The new dean was the husband of the client that tried to have my license revoked.

What do you think would have happened, had I not acted the Christian way a few years earlier? I likely would have been fired. In fact, I wasn't sure that it wouldn't happen anyway. But, I had come to peace with it either way. "Do right, and let the chips fall where they may." That's a piece of advice I give often, so I had better take my own advice when it came to this situation.

I didn't lose my job, and it took a few years. But now, I count this couple as friends. They are still not professing Christians, but I have gone out of my way to genuinely display Christ's love for them. Pray for them, would you?

- 1) Has there ever been a time when you repaid evil for evil? What was the outcome? Do you regret it now?**
- 2) Has there ever been a time that even though you weren't obligated to do so, you determined to do the right thing? What was the outcome? Do you regret it?**
- 3) Have you ever done the right thing only to be punished for it? Do you regret it?**
- 4) "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Romans 8:17, NIV**
- 5) Remember that Heaven awaits, Christian. We will spend a lot more time up there than we will spend down here. Keep striving.**



Dr. Rocky Lindsey (LSU '98) and his wife, Alicia, live in southeast Arkansas. They have two teenage sons, Isaac and Jonah. Dr. Lindsey owned and operated two busy small animal practices until 2015. Even though the practices weren't for sale, the Lord led the Lindsey's to sell their businesses, then led Dr. Lindsey to teach at a local university. Dr. Lindsey serves as the South Central Region Representative for CVM. Email: rlindsey@cvm.org