

# HWLF: He Would Love First - Part 4

## Reclaiming Encouragement In A Culture Of Criticism

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Part of HWLF: He Would Love First Answering the Question, "What would Jesus do?"

October 23, 2020

### RECLAIMING ENCOURAGEMENT IN A CULTURE OF CRITICISM

October 25, 2020

Betsy Burke

**ENCOURAGEMENT:** the action of giving someone support, confidence, or \_\_\_\_.

**CRITICISM:** the act of expressing disapproval and of noting the problems or faults of a person or thing; a remark or \_\_\_\_ that expresses disapproval of someone or something.

Just because you \_\_\_\_ doesn't mean you \_\_\_\_.

And at its core, when we spread it and/or add our opinion to it, it's modern day \_\_\_\_.

*There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:*

*1) Haughty eyes [another sermon, another day]*

*2) A lying tongue*

*3) Hands that shed innocent blood*

*4) A heart that devises wicked schemes*

*5) Feet that are quick to rush into evil*

*6) A false witness who \_\_\_\_\_ lies*

7) And a person who \_\_\_\_\_ in the community.

—Proverbs 6: 16 - 19 (NIV)

**Before you Post ask yourself:**

**a) Is this \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?**

**b) Will this \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?**

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

—Ephesians 4:29 NIV

*A scoundrel plots evil, and on their lips, it is like a scorching fire. A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.*

—Proverbs 16: 27-28 NIV

**When in \_\_\_\_\_, leave it \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Before posting or commenting on social media, ask yourself:**

**a) Will this hinder my influence for Christ or become a distraction when I'm leading worship/serving/sharing the gospel in any way?**

**b) Am I diving into a potential dispute/debate/rant? (stirring up conflict)**

**c) Do my photos reflect a God-honoring heart? Do the photos that others post of me send the same message?**

**d) Is this rude or insulting? At no time are racist or sexist statements/comments appropriate.**

**e) Am I criticizing a local business whose owner, managers, or employees attend Gateway or could possibly attend Gateway in the future?**

***f) Is it possible that I'm wrong or that my information is incomplete?***

***g) What is my emotional state when I'm posting? Am I angry, fearful, desperate, or heartbroken? Do I feel betrayed?***

**We are representing Gateway Community Church, but more importantly we are representing Jesus. When in doubt, leave it out!**

**Before posting, we need to ask ourselves: *Am I making \_\_\_\_ matters public?***

*It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet. A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.*

*—Proverbs 11:12-13 NLT*

- *It's always good to pray, not all prayer requests belong online.*
- *While everything you say should be true, not everything that's true should be said.*
- *If someone gossips to you, they are likely to gossip about you.*
- *Stay clear of repeating gossip, and of hearing it or seeing it.*

*—Craig Groeschel*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat of its fruits.*

*—Proverbs 18:21*

**1) \_\_\_\_ Criticism and Be Encouraged.**

**We are \_\_\_\_\_. We are called to be different.**

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good work, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*—Ephesians 2:10 NIV*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

—1 Peter 2:9 NIV

**Our mission statement is:**

**To lead \_\_\_\_ to become more like Jesus.**

***In fact, \_\_\_\_ who wants to live a godly life will be persecuted.***

—2 Timothy 3:12

*I have told you these things, so that in me, you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble but take heart! I have overcome the world!*

—John 16:33 NIV

**2) \_\_\_\_ the way Jesus would: He Would Love First!**

*...when we are cursed we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly.*

—1 Corinthians 4:12

**\_\_\_\_ them.**

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

—Romans 5:8 NIV

**\_\_\_\_ for them.**

**3) Be encouraging.**

**\_\_\_\_ others as God does.**

**\_\_\_\_ kindly and truthfully about what you see in others.**

**\_\_\_\_ time, resources, help.**

**\_\_\_\_ for others.**