

Man That Jesus Healed

John 5:11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again.

Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:10 Jesus stood up straight and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" 11 She replied, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

Be ready to give an Answer

1 Peter 3:13 For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good? 14 But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. 15 But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. 16 Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if God wills it, than for doing evil.

We are to be a voice, but in our mandate we are to be full of love.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

How were they using their freedom for the flesh?

They were fighting each other over doctrine!
(*Salvation Doctrine*)

Some thought you had to be circumcised to be saved and some didn't.

And they both had scripture and teachings to back it up!

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as

yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

But there is something that trumps truth! LOVE

(“How can you say that P. Jon!?!?!?”)

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

It is more important to love than to be right!

While Jesus was on the earth, He was the most right. Yet He also walked in love the most also.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The desire of the flesh is to be right.

Throughout time believers have sought out correct theology.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were quite sincere. They wanted to understand what the scriptures were trying to tell them.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Yet they missed the whole message, that God had send Jesus into the World.

They could not accept Jesus because His popularity and success cut into the good thing they had going.
They lacked love.

The search for truth, the study of doctrine can be used a couple very different ways.

It can clearly define truth for the hearer to embrace and apply to their life so that truth can guide their understanding and decision making.

Or it can be used to highlight differences which can then be used to clearly mark lines of separation.

It is our choice as to which it will be.

When we choose to use doctrine to separate “us” from “them” we fall into the trap of the flesh.

*17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 **Now the works of the flesh are evident:** sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,** 21 **envy,** drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

There will be differences in the way we see things, but what is important is how we deal with those differences

1 Corinthians 11:17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, 19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

When we walk in love with each other we are above the law.

We are to treat each other with “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, (and) self-control”

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

So, does that mean we just accept what everyone believes ... as “Their truth”?