

- 15- Thus when you face undeserved suffering you are enabled to stand fast because of the confidence you have regarding the third hope: your eternal future is secure.
- 16- Although circumstances may arise which place you between Scylla and Charybdis, you have knowledge of doctrine to help you make the right choice. ★
- 17- Where information is lacking you may resort to prayer and appeal to the supreme court of heaven for direction and guidance in the choices which must be made.
- 18- Utilizing the Biblical problem-solving devices to stabilize your soul, you permit providence to take its course.
- 19- In such a situation your attitude will be that of Joseph Hall's Honest Man: "in all things, good or ill, he respects the nature of the action, not the sequel."<sup>1</sup>
- 20- Once you are able to handle the problems in life related to God and self then you are prepared to handle the problems presented by your fellow man.

E-9/6 B  
B-9/8  
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**Honor Code Principle #7:** Maintain poise and objectivity when fellow believers malign you. Never make excuses. Never retaliate. Romans 12:

v 14 = Speak well of those who persecute you; keep on speaking well and do not curse them.

- 1- Sooner or later someone is going to make you the object of their gossip. You are going to be judged and maligned and criticized.
- 2- Their accusation may be the result of false assumptions or the product of sound analysis from all the facts.

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<sup>1</sup> Hall, Joseph. "The Honest Man." Vol. 1 of The Literature of England, edited by George B. Woods, et al., 616. Chicago: Scott Foresman and Company, 1947.

- 3- You may be wrong, but you may be right. Either way the circumstances are yours to face and you should not be the topic of vilification from others.
- 4- Nevertheless, this does occur. It is under these conditions that you discover whether or not you buy the idea of God's justice.
- 5- One thing you must learn: you can never make clear to everyone's satisfaction why you did what you did or said what you said.
- 6- Your successes and failures are between you and the Lord, yet often others will make it a point to publicly and personally persecute you in some way because of them.
- 7- God is still in His heaven and Jesus Christ still sits as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven.
- 8- You must turn these matters over to them for ~~their~~ prosecution.
- 9- The process and procedure for doing so demands that you habitually speak well of your adversary and never, ever resort to any form of revenge tactics.
- 10- This requires poise, grace and even a sense of humor.
- 11- You may think you have a right to clear your name but to do so you have to create a public spectacle which involves other believers.
- 12- The policy is to let God take care of the details. His integrity insures there will be no miscarriage of justice.
- 13- For you to speak well of your adversary requires that your thinking continue to be controlled by the Holy Spirit with doctrine circulating through the stream of consciousness.
- 14- The outside adversity of persecution is kept outside eliminating any build up of stress in your soul.

- 15- The key to handling this pressure is to keep your thinking grace oriented. Remember you are dealing with another member of the royal family.
- 16- Doctrinal orientation to reality reminds you that it is a family matter and God will take care of any necessary details.
- 17- Thus as long as your thoughts are objective then you may or may not wish to verbalize praise for your adversary. You may wish to keep silent.
- 18- This approach was the one taken by Joseph Hall's Honest Man, "when his name is traduced, his innocency bears him out with courage: then, lo, he goes on in the plain way of truth, and will either triumph in his integrity, or suffer with it."
- 19- This approach eliminates use of the adversative conjunction "but": "Oh, I think Fred is the finest Christian gentleman I know but I am afraid that he has the habit of plundering into the affairs of others without any concept of what he is talking about." Or, in street language: "Fred Jones is a believer I know, but in my opinion he is a meddling SOB."
- 20- This is verbal retaliation and is prohibited by the last mandate of the verse, "do not curse them."
- 21- The word for "curse" is **KATARAO'MAI** and means to imprecate, to wish evil on; to have an antagonistic attitude; to pray against.
- 22- We are not permitted to publicly castigate our fellow believer who persecutes us nor are we allowed the prerogative of praying that God visit misery and suffering upon him.
- 23- Such an attitude indicates you have reacted to outside adversity creating stress in the soul.
- 24- Such an approach indicates you have lowered yourself to the level of your adversary and joined him on the playing field of cosmic warfare.
- 25- From such conflict the body of Christ cannot be restored to harmony or unity.

ε- 9/8  
 β- 9/10

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(See Doc: C:\WP\JBG\90SP-J4.59 for continuation of study at p. 1161.)