

Conviction in an Anything Goes World

We are to love one another as persons even when we've failed to live perfectly God's way.

Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Ephesians 4:2 (CEV)

Just because a majority of people don't accept something as true doesn't make it any less true.

Resolve in your heart that you're going to honor God with your convictions.

Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping. 1 Corinthians 16:13 (Message)

Convictions are to be based in God's truth not our feelings.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

When you stand up for God's way, don't be surprised when the heat gets turned up on you to conform to the way of the world.

"The God we worship can save us from you and your flaming furnace. But even if he doesn't, we still won't worship your gods and the gold statue you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18 (CEV)

Don't be mean-spirited or condemning, but respectful, when standing up for truth.

God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love. Ephesians 4:15a (Message)

It is unloving to withhold sharing your Christian convictions and to simply conform to the moral relativism of culture.

Genuine Christian conviction costs.

Talk About It

1. What are a couple of your favorite movies? Why do you like them?
2. How patient would you say you normally are? What do you think of that?
3. When you've had a bad day, what do you generally want to do?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that followers of Jesus are to love one another as persons even when they've failed to live perfectly God's way? Why?

5. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that followers of Jesus are to offer love and care for person as individuals without approving of sinful or selfish behaviors when wrongs are done? Why?
6. What do you think are some examples of cultural differences among people that are matters of no real moral consequence and simply being tolerant of one another's differences is appropriate?
7. Do you believe there is such a thing as absolute truth? Why or why not? How does that make a difference in how you live?
8. What do you think are some examples of people's convictions being based on their personal feelings rather than God's truth?
9. When is a time that you might be willing to face rejection for standing up for God's way and refusing to conform to the way of the world?
10. How have you attempted not to be mean-spirited or condemning, but respectful, when standing up for God's truth? How do you respond when other people are mean-spirited or condemning when they supposedly are standing up for God's truth?
11. What do you think of the idea that it is unloving to withhold sharing your Christian convictions and to simply conform to the moral relativism of culture?