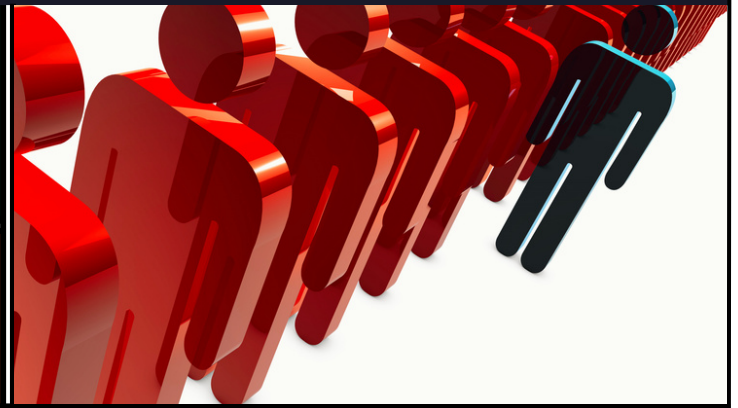


COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- How To Handle Opposition
- Getting Something New
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



HOW TO HANDLE OPPOSITION

Bishop Cecil Reid

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (Mark 7:1)

Leaders have a constant companion. It is **opposition**. If you lead, you will have those who oppose you. Be ready with answers for your critics, and do not let unjust or unwarranted criticism discourage you. (It is very important to be able to discern the difference between unjust or unwarranted criticism and constructive criticism given by caring friends, which is valuable to every leader.)



Opposition will often come in the form of attacks on your people, as was the case in the passage cited above. The Pharisees sought to distract and disrupt Jesus by attacking His disciples. Make no mistake about it, an attack on your followers is an attack on your leadership. As you defend your

followers, you do two things: First, you defend yourself. Second, as your followers see you standing up for them, their loyalty to you and to your leadership is greatly enhanced.

While it is important to defend and speak up for your followers in public, this does not mean that you turn a blind eye to their actions that need reproof and correction. Followers do make mistakes. Some mistakes are honest. However, some followers use their position to do bad things. Both need correction: the latter need rebuke. In almost every circumstance, a leader will be wise to correct or rebuke followers in private or at least within an inner circle.

Note the way Jesus rebuked the disciples and the circumstances throughout the Gospels in which He did it. Jesus did not directly answer the criticism of the Pharisees, nor did He directly criticize their man-made rules. Instead, He dealt with the heart of the issue—man-made rules versus God's eternal law.

Nothing in this passage suggests that the Pharisees were wrong to establish certain traditions regarding ceremonial washings. Those traditions were meant to remind the Jews of their inner uncleanness and the absolute necessity of

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approaching God with a clean heart. But somehow that noble purpose had been twisted into an extra-biblical standard for judging others. When Jesus called them "hypocrites," it wasn't because of their rules, but because of their judgmental spirit that contradicted the very point of hand washing in the first place.

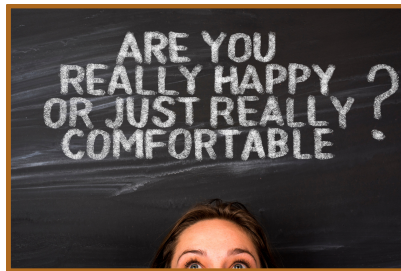
Jesus (1) responded to unjust criticism, (2) defended His disciples, and at the same time (3) refocused the issue away from His followers and back on His critics. Jesus did a masterful job of showing how a leader handles his critics without getting unnecessarily sidetracked. *Think about it.*

Getting Something New

The old saying:

"If you want something you have never had before, you have got to do something you have never done before."

1. **See the Beyond:** Envision that there is more, much more than your present state.
2. **Let go of the old:** With two things in your hand, and you see something that you want, - let go of what's in your hands.
3. **Get out of your comfort zone:**
 - It takes work and courage.
 - Face your fears.
 - Get pass your barriers.
 - Define them.
4. **Decide what it's worth:**
 - In buying clothes, what is the first thing you do? – Check the price!
 - Is it worth it?
 - Are you willing to pay the price?



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 7th > NWSE One Day Women's Conference
- 9th – 13th > Southern District Convention

NOVEMBER

- 23rd > Thanksgiving

Find more information on www.cogainc.org

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- October is the best time to prank a leaf! They fall for anything!
- What is a squirrel's favorite thing to do on October nights? Nut-flix and chill
- "The road to success is always under construction."
- "I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific." – Lily Tomlin
- "A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure."
- "Life is too short to be serious all the time. So, if you can't laugh at yourself, call me... I'll laugh at you."

