



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 11

October 19, 2025

No. 42

## Threading the Needle: Not Tolerating Sin, But Helping Those In Sin

- by Josh McCord

One of the greatest challenges for Christians is: finding the balance between standing firmly against sin and showing compassion to those who are struggling with it. On the one hand, the Bible is clear that we cannot tolerate or excuse sin. Paul told the Corinthians to *“purge out the old leaven”* (1 Corinthians 5:7) and not to glory in tolerating immorality. Sin destroys souls, and to remain silent or indifferent is to show neither love for God nor love for the people involved. At the same time, Paul told the Galatians to *“restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted”* (Galatians 6:1). Christians must be people who both oppose sin **AND** help the sinner.

On the other hand, we must never forget that sinners are the very people that Jesus came to save, *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”* (Matthew 9:12). Paul reminded Titus that *“we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived”* (Titus 3:3).

Threading this needle means we:

**Stand against sin clearly.** We call sin what it is, without softening it. When a brother or sister engages in sin, we can't say, “it's not a big deal.” Sin is serious, but our words should still *“always be with grace, seasoned with salt”* (Colossians 4:6).

- **Show patience and mercy.** Change takes time. Just as God is *“longsuffering toward us”* (2 Peter 3:9), we must walk alongside others as they strive to overcome their faults.

- **Offer help with a path forward.** It's always appropriate to remind a brother or sister that's caught up in sin of the truth that, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

- **Stay humble.** Remember that we too, depend on God's grace, and we too, could *“be overtaken in a fault”* (Galatians 6:1) if we fail to stay on guard.

That is the needle we must thread: never tolerate sin but always extend a helping hand to those who want to overcome it. Truth without love is harsh. Love without truth is empty. But truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15) brings healing and hope.

## BEFORE ALL

Roger Shouse

*John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The message and life in Christ is not a secret, unknown mystery. Christianity is the light that is shone before men, the epistle that is known and read by all men, and the good deeds that are done in all men (Gal 6:10). We learn that the events in the life of Christ were witnessed before the eyes of the world. It would be these events that the faithful would refer to as the “proof of Christianity.”

THE TEACHING OF CHRIST WAS BEFORE ALL. “Jesus answered him, ‘I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret’ (Jn 18:20). The results of His preaching and teaching produced amazement and the glorifying of God (Mt 7:28).

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST WERE BEFORE ALL. Matthew records the Lord in Galilee healing all manners of sickness and disease among the people (4:23-25). The healing of the cripple (Mt 9:1-8) was before the multitudes. The resurrection of the widow’s son was seen by many (Lk 7:11-16). Peter reminded the crowds, “...Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know” (Acts 2:22). As a result of these miracles the Bible says, “So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel” (Mt 15:31).

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST WAS BEFORE ALL. Jesus was beaten and mocked before “the whole band of soldiers” (Mt 27:12). While on the cross, the chief priests elders and scribes saw Him (Mt 27:41). Many women were gathered at the cross (Mt 27:54, 55). After His resurrection, God “showed Him openly” (Acts 10:40). Paul lists that the resurrected Lord was witnessed by the apostles, and as many as five hundred brethren, and by Paul himself (1 Cor 15:1-8).

The life of Christ was before all. From this we must learn that our faith, our seasoned speech, our talents, our convictions, and our good deeds are to be seen by all.

Are you shining your light?

## JESUS WASHED JUDAS’ FEET

–Andy Sochor

Shortly before His death, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet (John 13:3-5). Initially, Peter objected (John 13:6); yet Jesus explained that this needed to be done, even if Peter did not understand the reason at the time (John 13:7-10).

Immediately after this, Jesus explained why He washed their feet: “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you” (John 13:13-15).

The lesson here was about more than foot-washing. Jesus was teaching His disciples that they were to be humble with their brethren and seek to serve them. He would state it differently later in the chapter: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34).

Jesus showed the perfect example of humble service and love. However, it is significant that Judas – the one who would betray Him – had not yet left the group when Jesus washed their feet (John 13:30). Furthermore, Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him (John 13:11); yet He treated him the same way He treated the others. This was an example to them and to us.

So remember that Jesus washed Judas’ feet. He showed kindness, even though it would not be returned back to Him. We must show love to our brethren – even if we know it will not be reciprocated – because we are following the example of Jesus.