

COMPASSION...BETTER THAN CONDEMNATION



Years ago where I ministered, there was a basketball league in which the congregation took part. There was a game

between the Methodist Church and our team. The Methodist preacher had just lost a daughter in an accident a couple of weeks before the game. The game was close and both teams of course, wanted to win.

The Methodist preacher was in earnest and in his excitement he swore and let out a curse word. Evidently it was quite loud, as everyone seemed to have heard it. When people came up to me and ask me if I had heard what the Methodist preacher said, I got the feeling they expected me to condemn him.

I put myself in his place and knew how sorry I would be if that would have happened to me. I looked at the accusers and said, "Did you just lose a daughter in an accident?" The looked at me shocked and answered, "No".

I replied, "Well remember, he did. You ought to be grieving for his loss and understand his frustration. I am sure that he regrets his sin as much as I would if it were me."

Those who heard me must have told the whole community as everywhere I went, people, even strangers, thanked me for my compassion for the minister and not taking advantage of the situation to condemn him and build myself up.

In a few days, the preacher even came by my home and thanked me for my kindness and said that until he gets a hold of himself he would refrain from playing. My heart went out to him, as I am sure he was hurting not only for the loss of his daughter, but for his burst of anger.

I just felt like Jesus was there and since I was not without sin, I never threw stones. I found out the truth of the words of Scripture, "It is a glory for a man to overlook a fault."

I never did it for glory. It was just one of those times that I do not have enough in my life, that I acted in a Christ-like spirit instead of in the flesh.

I wish I could say that I always respond like I think that Jesus would!