

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Tact

"Tact is the art of making a point without making an enemy." – Isaac Newton

"I've learned *never* to ask a woman if she is pregnant." – Robert Watkins

"In the battle of existence, talent is the punch; tact is the clever footwork." – Wilson Mizner

"Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves." – Abraham Lincoln

Webster defines *tact* as, "the ability to do or say things without offending or upsetting other people." The Lord knew of such a need when He sent His disciples out on the limited commission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. "Behold, I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

Many a Christian has been tripped up by this one because they don't know how to present the Gospel. They know what it says and the urgency of convincing one of the need to be a Christian, and to have their sins washed away (Acts 22:16). So in their concern and haste they sometimes tend to be too blunt. The unfortunate result is that they become like sandpaper, and end up rubbing folks raw. So much so in fact that they drive a person further away instead of drawing them closer to God.

Is there a way to present the truth without being overly offensive? To a degree that answer would be, yes. The answer is qualified in that sin finds the truth offensive. Folks don't like to have it pointed out that they are lost in their sins, especially when they feel like they are good moral people. But if you present the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), you can certainly make your presentation of the truth more palatable.

Now in fairness, there are times when we have to be more blunt. We may present the truth in a loving manner and it seems that we are not getting through to folks. We may then have to be a little more forceful. It is like Jude when he talks about "snatching them out of the fire" (Jude 23).

Generally speaking, we need to be more "diplomatic" in our presentation of the truth. In no way is this suggesting compromise. That would be wrong and displeasing to God. Our desire is to get through to folks.

Perhaps the best advice one can give is to let God do the speaking. Present His Word and let the word reveal to folks their condition and what they need to do to be saved. Remember that the power is in God's Word (Isa. 55:11; Rom. 1:16). But reveal it in a spirit of love.