

Messenger of Truth

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

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Faults

"The cardinal method with faults is to overgrow them and choke them out with virtues." – John Bascom

"A good garden may have some weeds." – Thomas Fuller, M.D.

"Everybody has something wrong with them." – Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast*

"Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own." – Henrichs

"We only confess our little faults to persuade people that we have no large ones." – Francois de La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes*

No one likes to admit they have faults. Some like to cover them with humor, such as when Mac Davis sang those words, "Lord, it's hard to be humble when you are perfect in every way." Well, if we were perfect in every way we would be exactly like God. Trouble is, we are not. Even in the matter of sin, "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one'" (Rom. 3:10). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:8,10).

So, no one is perfect then. But when it comes to our relationships with others, we need to be a little more understanding and forgiving since we ourselves have our share of faults. Too often people look down upon others for not being as "perfect" as they think they are. Do you remember Paul's humbling words to the church at Rome: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3).

In Jesus' famed Sermon on the Mount, He opened with the powerful words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). Humility is the key to having a wonderful relationship with God. And it takes that spirit of humility to be able to admit that we have faults. And since we know that we do, we need to learn to be more patient with others. If we choose the road of arrogance and a haughty spirit, we may well find ourselves being greatly embarrassed when our faults are exposed.

It is important that we learn to love one another in spite of our faults (John 13:34-35). To do this is to take a giant step forward in our service to the Master.