



THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

LESSON 29

CASE STUDY #1:

Stan is a man of simple taste and style. He is not a big fan of new things and looks forward every day to eating the same meals he has eaten for over twenty years. Stan has also attended the same church for over twenty years. He is not a fan of change there either. Recently, Stan's church called a new minister to lead their congregation as the lead pastor. The church wants to minister to their local community and they believed that this younger pastor would help them do that.

Since the pastor arrived at the smaller church, many things have changed, and many of them are not to Stan's liking. The music, worship order, and even the preaching style is different than what Stan was accustomed to on Sunday mornings. The longer the pastor remained at the church, the more he changed, until Stan began to become angry. One morning, Stan couldn't stand it anymore and confronted the pastor in front of other members of the congregation one Sunday after church. Instead of approaching the pastor privately, Stan reacted out of anger and embarrassed himself and the new pastor.

1. What is the main factor that caused Stan to question the pastor?
2. How do Stan's personal preferences impact the church's mission?
3. Are Stan's personal preferences, such as preaching style or music, legitimate factors for causing disunity according to Ephesians 4:1-6? Why or why not?

CASE STUDY #2:

Kristin has always loved to have friends. She is a talker if there ever was one; and she loves to fellowship with people in her church. Although Kristin is well liked among her peers at school and at church, she has a tendency at times to gossip. Because she loves to talk so much, she was recently asked to be more careful about whom she shares sensitive and private information with by her youth pastor. When news about a private problem between another girl in youth group and her boyfriend arose, Kristin began sharing the information with other students in the youth group.

When the youth pastor found out that Kristin was sharing this information, he approached her and kindly asked her to stop. Instead of owning her mistakes and protecting the privacy of that person, she continued to spread rumors about the girl and even blamed the spreading gossip on other girls in her youth group. Although this girl shared her problems in confidence, soon the entire youth group new her issues because of Kristin.

1. What was the main factor or motivator that caused Kristin to incite disunity in her youth group?
 2. How does Kristin's lying about other students affect the church's ability to accomplish its mission?
 3. Is Kristin's lying and gossip a legitimate factor for causing disunity according to Ephesians 4:1-6? Why or why not?
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