



Shepherd Care®

Revision Date:
May 22, 2023

To Care for People Where They Live and Work

COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Three Sides to Every Story

Did you know that there are three sides to every story?

- Our side.
- Their side.
- God's side- a higher perspective.

So often we judge others by their actions, and we judge ourselves by our intentions. With our skewed perceptions the situation could become worse or even greater harm or misunderstandings can develop. To avoid the mess of selfishness and error, what can we do?

Principles of Understanding

- Seek to understand, then seek to be understood.
- Be a peacemaker- there is a blessing in it for those that do (*Matthew 5:9*).
- Have a heart for reconciliation (*Matthew 5:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:18*).
- God can make good things come out of bad experiences (*Romans 8:28*).
- The principle of walking in agreement means that it is "OK" to part ways. There is room for different and unique viewpoints, convictions, and principles (*Amos 3:3*).
- Use open ended questions so that all parties involved will comprehend everyone's side (*Proverbs 18:17*).

- Follow solid principles of confronting: First go alone; then go with a witness or neutral person, then if the matter cannot be resolved, go before the larger group or organization. Leaders especially have a responsibility to ensure unity in their team (*Matthew 18:15-22*).
- Be slow to speak and quick to listen (*James 1:19*).
- Pray (*James 1:5; James 5:16*).
- Establish Boundaries.
- Be Respectful to the people involved.
- Speak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*).

Some very influential people have had negative experiences where they passionately stood for their own "sides," with the end result as a very constructive outcome. An example is the partnership of Paul and Barnabas. Paul would not have had his successful start without Barnabas (*Acts 9:27*). Together they had a profitable and successful ministry. Then they had a divisive parting (*Acts 15:29*). The final word, though, was very positive (*Colossians 4:10*).

The goal is to not conquer the opponent, but rather reach an agreeable solution. Also, sometimes there is a wrong that cannot be ignored. Lastly, if we cannot agree, we can agree to disagree.

Introducing your Community Chaplain

Eric Kieselbach

(pronounced "key-sill-baa")

Email:

eric@shepherdcare.us

Pippin: "And whose side are you on?"

Treebeard: "Side? I am on nobody's side because nobody's on my side, little Orc. Nobody cares for the woods anymore."

Merry: "We're not Orcs. We're Hobbits!"

**The Lord of the Rings:
The Two Towers**

<http://www.council-of-elrond.com/tttrans.html>

"And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Genesis 50:19-20

All Scripture quotations, except otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769. Public Domain.