

CouplesInBloom.com – Too Strong

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Our privilege and obedience as Christians is to disciple people; this involves relational processing with them and their coming to know God personally ⇒ Matthew 28:19-20.

Relational processes take time and discovery. Human experiences vary greatly but we learn how to evangelize people by learning who they are ⇒ 1 Corinthians 9:22. Reducing the gospel to a list of theological steps misses the heart of Christianity: relational processing with God. Basic steps of sinners needing a Savior *are* vital, but discipleship requires relationship, and the popularity of Christians *not* discipling others has gone viral.

Jesus said few people care enough to share the gospel ⇒ Matthew 9:36-38. Satan praises this lack as “normal” and condemns Christian evangelism as “abnormal”. We avoid these lies by caring and making disciples in loved-based obedience ⇒ Matthew 28:18-20. If we are not helping somehow with discipling people ⇒ 1 Corinthians 3:6, then God is calling us to get involved... through His relational processing with *us*.

We know, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” ⇒ Romans 8:1. This refers to ⇒ Romans 7 which contrasts what we do to what we do not do. Romans 6:14-15 ⇒ says grace is not a license to sin. The verse “*in* Christ Jesus” *literally* means *in the midst of an already started- but not-yet-completed-* relational process. Contrary to popular belief (and error), Romans 8:1 ⇒ does *not* say:

☒ There is now no condemnation for those who *redefine what being in Christ Jesus is*.

☒ There is now no *conviction* for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Conviction is strong direction from God whose focus is victory over evil. Obviously upset, the devil subsequently *lies* to Christians by saying this *conviction* is *condemnation*. He says such words are *too strong*. What is **too strong** in Christianity? If uncontrolled, the **presence of God will kill us**; it is **too strong** ⇒ Exodus 33:20. So God limits Himself in custom relational process, based on knowing us individually. The Bible can *feel too strong* if we are new to Christian maturity ⇒ Romans 14, *or* if we are lagging in Christian maturity ⇒ Hebrews 5:11-14. God gladly helps us to keep maturing no matter where we are in our lifelong relational growth process with Him ⇒ Philippians 3:12-16.

Elijah had a time that was **too strong** for him to bear ⇒ 1 Kings 19:7. Jesus’ disciples did, also ⇒ John 16:12. Each time, God personally helped them with it ⇒ John 3:30. We all work out our own salvation with fear and trembling ⇒ Philippians 2:12; Psalm 2:11. Psalm 69:32 says ⇒ humble people seek the presence of God... and truly live!

“Hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us” ⇒ Romans 5:5. We are not embarrassed when convicted; we gladly grow and there is no condemnation... despite what the devil says. Timid believers want happy talk ⇒ 2 Timothy 4:1-5, and they **dread strong** discipleship; they want to enter Heaven but cannot ⇒ Revelation 21:8. Not all believers go to Heaven ⇒ James 2:19; God said everyone *believing* in Jesus must also *be living* in Jesus (i.e. be His *disciple*) ⇒ Matthew 7:21-23. ‘**Too strong**’ becomes our **new strong** as we grow! ♥