

Relational Vampires

Opinionated People

There's a Difference Between Having an Opinion and Being Opinionated.

DEFINITION - Opinion

*Noun: A belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty. A **personal view, attitude, or appraisal.***

DEFINITION - Opinionated

*Adjective: **Obstinate or conceited** with regard to the merit of one's own opinions; **conceitedly dogmatic.***

Unfriendly people care only about themselves; they lash out at common sense. Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

Wise words are like deep waters; wisdom flows from the wise like a bubbling brook.

Fools' words get them into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating. The mouths of fools are their ruin; they trap themselves with their lips.

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Proverbs 18:1-2, 4, 6-7, 13, 15, 21 (NLT)

In Election Seasons, There Are No Shortage of Opinions!

We Must Get a Proper Perspective of Our Role in Politics.

Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?" Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said,

*“Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.” When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them. **Mark 12:13-17 (NLT)***

In America, “We the People” Are Caesar, So Vote Responsibly.

God’s Word Establishes What Is Right and True and Good.

How Should We Deal With Opinionated People?

1. Check Your Pride.

*Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. **Proverbs 13:10 (KJV)***

2. Don’t Waste Your Words.

*Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out. **Proverbs 20:5 (NLT)***

3. Sometimes It’s Worth It, Most of the Time It Isn’t.

If you punish a mocker, the simpleminded will learn a lesson; if you correct the wise, they will be all the wiser.

Proverbs 19:25 (NLT)

Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. So don’t bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you.

Proverbs 9:7-8 (NLT)

4. We Can Only Control Ourselves

To acquire wisdom is to love yourself; people who cherish understanding will prosper. Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

Proverbs 19:8, 11 (NLT)

*Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling. **Proverbs 20:3 (NLT)***

- **One of the Only Things in Life That Is Certain Is That Uncertainty Will Never Go Away.**
- **But While Uncertainty Is Unavoidable, Living in Fear Is Optional.**
- **Our Only Hope Is Found in Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus.**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT)