

Telling Faults

Detailed Instructions

Ellen G. White

Sister F, if you are grieved because your neighbors or friends are doing wrong to their own hurt, if they are overtaken in fault, follow the Bible rule. "Tell him his fault between thee and him alone." [Mat. 18:15. See also Ezekiel 3:16-17; 26-27]

- 1) As you go to the one you suppose to be in error, see that you speak in a meek and lowly spirit; for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. The erring can be restored in no other way than in the spirit of meekness, gentleness, and tender love.
- 2) Be careful in your manner. Avoid anything in look or gesture, word or tone, that savors of pride or self-sufficiency.
- 3) Guard yourself against a word or look that would exalt yourself, or place your goodness and righteousness in contrast with their failings.
- 4) Beware of the most distant approach to disdain, overbearing, or contempt.
- 5) With care avoid every appearance of anger; and though you use plainness of speech, let there be no reproach, no railing accusation, no token of warmth but that of earnest love.
- 6) Above all, let there be no shadow of hate or ill will, no bitterness or sourness of expression. Nothing but kindness and gentleness can flow from a heart of love.
- 7) Yet all these precious fruits need not hinder you from speaking in the most serious, solemn manner, as though angels were directing their eyes upon you, and you were acting in reference to the coming judgment. Bear in mind that the success of reproof depends greatly upon the spirit in which it is given.
- 8) Do not neglect earnest prayer that you may possess a lowly mind, and that angels of God may go before you to work upon the hearts you are trying to reach, and so soften them by heavenly impressions that your efforts may avail.
- 9) If any good is accomplished, take no credit to yourself. God alone should be exalted. God alone has done it all. – Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 2, p52-53.