

*Do not enable negativity. You become an accessory to the sin.*

**“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”**

**MATTHEW 12:36-37 (KJV)**

**L**ife Lesson #1. This is the first in a series of lessons to help individuals and groups run the gambit of obstacles and traps which one faces as one travels the spiritual path of life. **Tough Love -1.** “Tough Love” is a concept in the recovery business and the human personal development business which means simply, if you truly love a person, then you must stop enabling (allowing or helping) them to continue doing the wrong things, in and with their lives; remembering, one life impacts another.

This is a story about a woman who has a young man (over twenty-one years old) living with her and not working. He cannot find a job. The lady allows another relative in the house; a young man like the first, but with a job.

The second young man is paying a small fee for living there, but it is not nearly what he would pay at an “extended stay” motel. But he follows right in with the first fellow: not keeping the driveway clean, not doing odd jobs around the house (the famed “honey-do” list), nor bringing groceries in (expected or not).

This quickly became too much for the lady who continued to struggle to pay her bills, though she had two grown men living with her. Not only were they not giving her enough money to meet her bills, but her utilities increased because they were living there. She asked the second man to leave. He became angry. She was already angry, so when she confronted him about leaving, she came with harsh words. She could not hear her negativity in her voice, but he heard it loudly and clearly.

In retaliation for her negativity and his having to leave; he becomes bitter and obstinate towards her (this is not of Christ). He then approaches me to agree with his negativity. Here lies the “rub” (where the metal hits the road) for those most people. Most people when others want them to agree with them—DO agree. This is a trap, because if you agree—you then agree with his situation and what and how he is doing it and you become an accessory to the action, which you know is wrong. You know it is negative, but you do not point it out or bring God’s Righteous Judgment into the picture. Most of the time, evil or negative forces have people so tired at the end of the day, they will agree to most anything. They are so tired that they cannot and do not want to deal with another

negative thing. (You can see this acted out in a family as the last child born does not get the attention that the children before them did. The parents are tired.)

This woman may have been using “tough love” but she was surely “fed up,” tired of being taken advantage of. The young man comes to me saying, “I am being kicked out.” He wants me to call around to places to check prices. He doesn’t want to use “her” phone because of his bitterness. If I let him use my phone then I am supporting his bitterness towards her. I check two places before I realize that am enabling him in his negative lifestyle. I moved towards “correction” because the Holy Spirit opened my “understanding” of the situation.

I let the young man know that he was moving in “irresponsibility.” He was asking me to do his job: find the cost of his accommodations (when he had been riding by the locations I was calling for three days before he asked me to call). He could have easily stopped to ask at the locations, but he was asking me to do what he should be doing. If I do it, then I enable his behavior of irresponsibility.

I tell him about it. Then I tell him, that if I was his landlord that he and his roommate would have to hit the road, because neither were being responsible in that situation. A dishwasher job is easy to find, so not being able to find a job is a lie (even for felons). Neither fellow was paying enough compensation for their accommodations; and it seems neither did it matter to them. He was being irresponsible and he needed to realize it and let her know that he realized it and apologize for it and let her know that he would do better from now on. The Holy Spirit let me know that if he did this, the situation would resolve positively.

This didn’t happen. So instead of Black people in the same family living together and sharing their money among themselves; they break up and give their money to parties outside of their family. Now isn’t that the work of satan? Have a blessed day!

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