

MESSAGE NOTES

Tough Skin and Soft Heart

2 Corinthians 1:4 Loyd Flaherty

Kind sensitive people have a soft heart and compassion for others. At times it can be difficult for such compassionate people when they receive criticism and complaints instead of thanks and appreciation for all their love and care.

1. Tough and Tender

The solution isn't tough skin, tough heart. Be sensitive to what others needs are and yet tough to the offenses that come your way.

1 Corinthians 13:5. "It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

2. Hurt People Can Help People

When we are offended it's easy to become offensive and hurt others. Spreading hurt is not helpful to anyone. Instead remember that hurt people can help people.

- 1 Peter 3:9 "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."
- **2 Corinthians** 1:3-5 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ."

3. Shake It off and Move on

When we are insulted or hurt sometimes we just need to shake it off. Friendships are valuable and it is helpful if we learn the skill of letting things go.

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Conclusion: Don't loose heart over miscommunication and misunderstanding. Shake it off and move on in love. Stay tough skinned and tender hearted.