

THE DE-TANGLE-ERS

TANGLES: IF YOU KNOW ME....

You know that I have naturally curly hair and that I have been on a quest to find a hair de-tangler that actually works!

One day, as I was painstakingly picking through my hair after a shower, I believe the Lord may have shown me a parallel of sorts regarding the Body of Christ, and tangled hair...*intrigued?*

It occurred to me that the only way to get “through” the tangles in my hair was to “go through” them, one piece at a time if necessary. You can’t “wish” them away, you can’t pray them away, you certainly can’t ignore them (I think that’s when the ‘tangles’ become dread-locks :), the only way you can really get through a tangled mess of hair is to slowly, patiently, gently, with great deliberateness, from the bottom of the hair up, begin to pick your way through it.

MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION: “DE-TANGLE-ERS”

Now, all these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18



As new creations in Christ, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. To preach the Gospel, and tell people that they can be brought back into right relationship with God through the cross of Jesus Christ. I also believe that this ministry of reconciliation extends to our brothers and sisters in Christ, whether that’s through forgiving one another, or showing love to one another, pursuing peace, being compassionate, etc. And even though we are new creations in Christ, we still sometimes get into these tangled messes in relationships. Whether it’s with the world or with others in the Body, the only way to ‘reconcile’ or ‘get through’ the mess is to go right on through it! If we have a problem with

a brother or sister in Christ, or they have a problem with us, (Matt. 5:23-24) we shouldn’t try to wish the problem or tangle away, or act like there is no problem, we should go to God in prayer first, and receive instruction from Him, then, go to the person and begin the process of ‘de-tangling.’ In my experience, many times it’s just a matter of a simple conversation, a clarification of sorts in what was really said, or what was really meant. Oh yeah, and we shouldn’t let it go on too long either, remember the *dread-locks*. A problem left to itself will get worse and can cause great damage in the future (in the case of dread-locks, they CANNOT be combed through, most of the hair must be removed)

How we ‘untangle’ a situation also matters. I used to RIP through my hair as fast as I could so I could go somewhere....as you can imagine, I did a lot of damage to my hair. Sure, my hair looked ok on the outside...for a time, but eventually, ‘split ends’ developed and it took some extra care from a professional to begin the process of healing for my hair. We can avoid ‘split ends’ in relationships too if we will start from the bottom and slowly, patiently, gently start to untangle the situation.

Yeah, you may still lose a little hair in this process, that’s to be expected in hair and relationships, and it can be painful, sometimes very painful, but it’s so worth it, both to our well being, to each other, and to our witness to the world. Let’s purpose in our hearts to be “DE-TANGLE-ERS,” bringing peace to relationships, especially when we have the power to do it; remembering to be gentle, patient, and so careful not to cause damage.

In Christ, we can be the perfect de-tangle-er. :)

