



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are pleased to continue to bring you our Care Conversations. In the first series, Dr Stephen Fyson brought us some reflections on *Mere Christian Education*, based on CS Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. In this next set, Stephen brings us some encouragement from the Gospel according to Matthew – often called the *Teachers' Gospel*.

We hope that this service from The Excellence Centre continues to support you in this wonderful ministry of Christian Education. Please remember to contact us with any ideas about how we may be able to assist you more.

Dr Tina Lamont
Director TEC
The Excellence Centre

Series 2:

THE TEACHERS' GOSPEL...

REFLECTION BY
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Number 3:

THOSE ENEMIES AROUND US...



I heard a radio announcer make a comment about some of his fellow journalists today. His basic complaint was that they seemed to be looking for negative stories to come out of the Rio Olympics, whereas he saw so many wonderful things coming out of the 2016 games.

It reminded me of some staff rooms. The tone can be negative, and the most animated discussions are about the problems with those *other people*. It seems to almost be where the delight is – in describing the faults of others.

If you are in leadership, then you know that sometimes you will be that *other person*. There will be delight in describing your shortfalls. There will be animated discussion about how you should have done something differently. And the temptation for all of us at this time is to *take sides*. When we take sides, we become members of opposing camps. When we become members of opposing camps, then the start of warring factions arises. Warring factions can become, over time, enemy camps.

What is our response to be when we see others as enemies? Jesus' response to this is in accord with the Father's instruction to *not take revenge*. Instead, as Jesus taught, we are to love our enemies and pray for them: *But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:44)

Pray for these people who want to be our adversaries? Do good to them as we have the opportunity? Show we are different by our love? All of this is so against our survival instincts!

But praise God, Jesus not only taught these things but has given us what we need to do them. Let us never be discouraged in calling our people to God's Word, prayer and mutual service, one to the other, to overcome those enemy camps...

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre

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- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products

- Practice Christian Community

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