



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 7:

MERCY NOT SACRIFICE



On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners". Matthew 9:12-13

I wonder how this applies to our schools? We are probably happily aware of the spirit of this teaching in an everyday sense: we are to be merciful, as our Heavenly Father is merciful. But what of the grey areas of this in teaching? For example, when does Christian mercy slide into trouble-avoiding leniency? How many times do we forgive the recalcitrant student (or staff member)? Are there 'conditions' for forgiveness, in a world that teaches 'unconditional love'? How do we not only demonstrate these life principles in our own lives but also teach them to our people?

God reminds us that we should *do justice, love mercy and walk humbly* before Him (Micah 6:8). Love without justice is a distorted love; justice without love has not mercy at all. Let's keep praying for God to give us discernment of the needs in the people around us, so that we can bring the aroma of God's grace to

them.



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We pursue our vision from a biblical base by aiming:

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

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The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of knowledge;
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)



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