



Trust In a Fish Symbol Violated

By Bill Sawyer, Founder of Networking In Christ

How many of us have heard a sad story by some fellow Christian who was “ripped off” by a professing Christian who marketed his or her business by displaying a fish symbol?

Even worse....How many of us have been the one “ripped off”?

The answer is far too many!

Does this mean we should not trust any Christian in business who, while doing business, boldly proclaims his faith? Is the Christian who does that doing what Jesus may have abhorred motivating his angry turning over of the money changer tables in the temple?

The answer is resolutely and emphatically NO!

What Jesus abhorred was the self-centered, greedy heart of the money changers. He abhorred that they were feigning faith in God while using the temple for only self glorification and personal profit. It is all about what is in our heart. Seeking and serving God first in all things (Matthew 6:33) is not about what we say or do *except* when what we say and do is in harmony with what is in our heart!

God has scripturally called his Body to support one another in *every* way, not only at church but everywhere we go! Everywhere we go in business, in politics, during times of civil service, at school committee meetings, etc. Everywhere we go, by his Holy Spirit, He goes!

So how do we support Christians in business without getting “ripped off” or becoming cynical?

1. We bend over backward to give grace to *any* professing Christian. God gave all of his children so much grace and we, in the Body of Christ, give one another too little! Our first response needs to be to believe the best of any professing Christian. We become obedient to Galatians 6:10. We *do good to all* (including business), *but especially to those* (including business) *of the household of faith*.
2. We understand that *Justification by Faith* and the *Sanctification* process are distinctly different. *Justification* is instantaneous. *Sanctification* goes on until our Home Going! Many of the stories of “ripp offs” by professing Christians have to do with Christians who have not been sanctified out of the grey areas they inhabited prior to their valid salvation, prior to their *Justification*.
3. When we are “ripped off” or perceive that we have been “ripped off” by someone who displayed a fish symbol on his business card or advertisement, we approach that person in accordance with Matthew 18: 15-17. We do not slander that brother or sister and we do not slander their business!

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