



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

WHO ARE THEY TO ASK?

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One day a few years ago my bank called. Some recent purchases had caught their attention. Could I verify the transactions? Were the charges legitimate?

I immediately asked them just who they thought they were. It was my money. Whether or not I bought certain things was none of their business. I let them know in no uncertain terms that I did not appreciate their meddling and they were to *never* to bother me again!

What's that you say? I overreacted? Was rude to people who were only doing their job? Wasn't being very smart? You're right. I would have been all of those things and probably some other things as well — *if* I had really answered that way.

You see, I know they were doing their job. Furthermore, I know that they were looking out for me. In today's world, they were right to be wary.

So, I confirmed the purchases. And then I *thanked* them for calling.

Then I thought of how we sometimes respond when someone expresses concern over something we've done that is at odds with Christ's image. Too often, we sound like my imaginary response. "It's none of your business." "It's my life, who are you to meddle?" "I'll thank you to *never* bother me again!"

Why do we do that? Is it pride? Are we trying to justify or ease the guilt we feel in being called on something we know is wrong? Or, could it be that it shows that we've bought into a view of life that's more culturally-centered than biblically based?

The Bible does teach that God will let us "do our own thing", although we should not forget that there are consequences for our choices (see Rom 1:24, 26, 28). But, it also teaches that, once we make the commitment of faith that puts us into Christ's body (1 Cor 12:13), we have agreed that our lives are no longer just about us. We are "members one of another" (Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25) who therefore are to have "the same care for one another" (1 Cor 12:25). When faithful people see us wandering (James 5:19-20), they are *supposed* to try to "restore [us] in a spirit of gentleness" and "supply what is lacking in [our] faith" (Gal 6:1; 1 Thess 3:10).

Yes, we can reject their overtures and even treat them as enemies because they told us the truth (Gal 4:16). But, in light of eternity, not to mention how we respond to something as like a phone call to see if some purchases are legitimate, is that really wise?

February 2008; Revised April 27, 2018