



## A cup of tea, or was it love?

**This is what Jesus is reported to have said, according to the writer of The Book of Matthew, chapter 18.**

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "

How many times do we skip the first instructions and jump straight to the easy bit of ostracizing those we can't even bring ourselves to talk to - just talk about?

If only God's ways, were our ways.

Christianity should have a reputation for looking after its members.

**The Freemasons have a better reputation for being united, that do the followers of Jesus.**

Read Cor 12:13-31

How often the wonderful blessing of reconciliation is lost in the mist of smoke and mirrors of half truths, suspicions and fears. Choose blessings, not curses. Forgive if that is what is required. Where there is perceived error, address that person respectfully for the sake of their soul - and yours.

A simple little gesture can certainly separates the men from the boys when it comes to 'Spirituality'.

A man stands in the freezing cold of

February and hands out Bound Together magazines to those who want them, at many churches. Most people want them, but four men are angry. How dare he be there. No attempt at discussion, just anger. Yet at one church an Elder asks, "Would you like a cup of tea". "Yes please, thank you" and off he trots and returns with a delicious hot cup of tea, or was it love - to the cold man, it felt like love, or was it a touch of Roman's 12:20? Whatever, it warmed the heart and the fingers. He thought, 'maybe I shouldn't be here', but Jesus reminded him why he was.

Furthermore, there is an ancient custom in the Borderlands called The Ridings. It's origins were to reinforce the rights of the common man against aggressive reivers. Horsemen ride the lands open to all to maintain the right to do so. Similarly, the Church must uphold our rights, or find that what goes around, comes around. The better way, is to talk and tolerate and hand out cups of 'love'.

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### JESUS WEPT

Do not be ashamed of your tears. Whether they fall gently, or stream from your face in a torrent, they are genuine expressions of your soul. Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) Wept doesn't mean a discreet tear quickly brushed aside to

avoid embarrassment. He wept. Don't be ashamed of emotion, there are those who have little to express. Jesus wept. Do not let others steal from you that special anointing of God's grace when He enters your heart and you weep for Jerusalem, or Carlisle, or those you love, or your

inner self. What you sow in tears you will reap in joy. What others do not understand they often condemn, or find false purposes for it. Do not be robbed of your emotion when touched by God. Some say our faith should not be emotional - yet Jesus wept.

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