



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Gospel Meeting

Becoming the Best **YOU** Ever!

with **Robert Hatfield**
from Fort Mill, South Carolina

October 13 - 16

Topics Include:

- Appreciating His Majesty
- Offering Meaningful Worship
- Getting the Most from Bible Study
 - Enriching Your Prayer Life
 - Sharing the Joy of Salvation
 - Giving Christ Control

Elizabethtown church of Christ

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How to React to “Jerks”

Have you ever known people who were jerks? How would God have you respond to this type of person? Well as catchy as our title is and as engaging as these first few sentences are, there may be a few hints within these first few words that might help us in our pursuit of God's Will in this matter.

First of all, we must ask, “Is the person really what the world refers to as a “jerk?” Perhaps a person was unkind to you, cheated you, ignored you, or otherwise acted in an offensive way. Why was such the case?

Many times, people's lives are so hectic, and people become so busy that they do not take the time to think about how their actions will impact others. They did not mean to be a "jerk" as the world says, they instead failed to take the necessary time to think about their actions. Their actions may mean they are inconsiderate, but perhaps not purposefully rude. These thoughtless actions often happen in a spur of the moment reactions, but they can also occur when thought is lacking in more significant decisions.

Many times, people overthink an issue, and although they mean well the result is not favorable. As much time and consideration that they think they have given to a situation they have missed the obvious central point. Those who utilize exclusively logical thinking often fail to react correctly. I can tend to fall into this category at times.

I've known some tennis players who thought their opponents were “jerks.” These opponents would call balls out that were clearly in. How does a player treat such an opponent? Well, I often teach the athletes to listen to Jesus and love your enemies. You see, if you get angry then your performance will suffer. I tell the athlete to remember that even in the U.S. Open they have individual line judges whose only job is to watch one line. Sometimes the computer overrules them. Perhaps your opponent thought the ball was out. Perhaps your opponent has so much pressure from their parents or the coach (or self-imposed pressure) that they “take a call here or there.” It is not right, but the pressure they feel results in cheating.

Here's the bottom line, God does not see "jerks" He sees souls made in His image. Perhaps that is why His Word provides instruction on almost every page of how we ought to treat one another. One passage serves as an umbrella under which all other inspired directions fall. You can find that passage in Matthew's account of the Gospel in chapter 7 and verse 12. We know it as the Golden Rule. It is the rule of action, not reaction!

Whether others practice the "might makes right" philosophy (Iron Rule) against you or fails to enjoin a positive action towards you (Silver Rule), be determined to follow the Savior's instruction and practice the Golden Rule toward them!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — 6 Rs of Repentance
2 Peter 3:9**

**P.M. — Evangelism 101
Matthew 28:18-20**