

THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 245

TITLE: 5 Stereotypes Christians Need To Change

We all seem to put people into a box—label them in ways that we can either easily dismiss or categorically aspire to without really getting into the messiness of really knowing them, knowing each other, and truly being known.

Here are three key things to believe, and consider, about changing the stereotypes Christians are known for...

1. **Stereotypes are developed for a reason, and we can start changing that by owning up to our part.** There is always a little truth or actual experience connected to these Christian stereotypes. How have you fallen into further propagating some of them? Often it is easier to hide or make knee-jerk, cliched statements regarding tough issues. Neither help to dispel stereotypes or build unity.
2. **The stereotypes that people have about Christians, and the ones that Christians have about certain other people only serve to divide us.** Don't settle for oversimplified images or ideas of a particular type of person or people group. Jesus came that we might once again be restored to a fullness in relationships both with God and each other. That takes time. That takes being together. Let his unconditional love and patience with you motivate the same interaction with others.
3. **Seek to live in Jesus' "third way".** He was always *for* people, *for* his Father's glory, and *for* the fullness of life that he created us to live in and enjoy. His life matched his message. Let your actions precede your words. And let your words build up rather than divide. Sometimes, like my mother always said, "*If you don't have something nice to say, it's better to say nothing at all.*"

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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