

# Words Are Symptomatic

Every human mood has its characteristic verbal expression and when a given word is used we may with some accuracy assume that a certain mood is also present in the person using that word.

For this reason words may be said to be symptomatic.

Words are **not** of themselves health or disease, but they may clearly indicate the presence of either in the person using them.

Words also may indicate what kind of spiritual disease the user is suffering from or the degree of health they enjoy.

The above observation is the result of listening to religious people talking.

Certain words keep cropping up in their conversation that causes the hearer to sense the presence of health or disease in their heart and human spirit.

Such often used words can tell us more about the speaker than they dream we know, and certainly more than they want us to know.

**One such word sometimes used among Christians is “fair” or “unfair”.**

**People use these words to describe the treatment accorded to them by other people.**

On the surface such words seem to be innocent, even indispensable words.

Yet they indicate an inner attitude that has **no** place among true Christians.

**A person who refers to an act as “unfair” to them is not a victorious person as every Christian should be in Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58** [NIV] *“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”*

**Through our trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit we have victory over anything the godless world might throw at us.**

**1 John 5:3-5** [NIV] *“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

Jesus Christ never promised that obeying Him would be easy. If the load starts to feel heavy, we can always trust Jesus Christ to help us bear it. [Matthew 11:28-30]

Any person who considers life “unfair” is inwardly defeated and in self-defence is appealing to the referee to note that they have been fouled.

**This allows such a person to blame their defeat on the fact that they have been treated “unfairly” by others.**

True Christians know that they have been called to follow Jesus Christ as His disciples, and certainly He did **not** receive anything remotely approaching “fair” treatment from any other human being.

**1 Peter 2:21-23** [NIV] *“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”*

**Peter had learned about “unfair” suffering from Jesus Christ and knew it was part of God’s plan for all human beings.**

The victorious Christian is **not** concerned with getting their “fair” share of things.

True love is **not** self-seeking and the odd thing is that the joy-filled Christian is one who opens their hands and hearts to be robbed by others who may cheat them. Suffering such “unfair” treatment if it is taken in good spirit, without complaint, means they have conquered their enemy and won the fight.

**Matthew 5:38-42** [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”*

**The words “resent” or “resentment” are also words that should never be used by a true Christian.**

“Resentment” simply **cannot** dwell in a loving heart.

Few sights are more depressing than that of a professed Christian defending their supposed rights and bitterly “resenting” any attempt to violate them.

Such a Christian has **never** accepted the way of the cross.

**Matthew 16:24-25** [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.’”*

Every disciple of Jesus Christ, that is every true Christian, must take up his cross and follow Jesus Christ.

What does this mean?

Paul explained it to the Christians at Rome, many of whom would become martyrs.

**Romans 6:3-8** [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. **For we know that our old self was crucified with him** so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”*

Our old life is crucified with Jesus Christ, this is the **only** way to avoid “resentment” changing into “bitterness.”

**Ephesians 4:30-31** [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”*

When we allow “bitterness” to dwell in us there is **no** room for an active Holy Spirit to develop the characteristics of God within us. [**Galatians 5:22-23**]

**Luke 23:34** [NIV] *“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”*

Even those who crucified Jesus Christ were forgiven by Him, because of their ignorance, **no** “*resentment*” was expressed.

The worst feature about this whole thing is that the “*bitter*” heart is **not** likely to recognise its own condition, and their whole relationship towards God and other Christians will be one of suspicion and distrust.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

**What a resentful person is actually showing is a total lack of thankfulness for what God has done for all humans through Jesus Christ.**

Only those who surrender their lives, their will, to Jesus Christ can express this gratitude and worship God in spirit and in truth. [**John 4:23**]

Such a surrender leaves us with **no** rights to “*resent*” losing, for we **only** have responsibilities towards our Creator God and Saviour, [**Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**].

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**Only** then can the Holy Spirit re-educate us to prepare for a place in the created family of God and receive the gift of eternal life.

**Matthew 12:35-37** [King James] *“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”*

The words we have been studying are all “*idle*” or non-productive or good words and should not be part of a true Christian’s vocabulary and symptomatic character.