



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015



# MY DEAR FRIEND, IRRITATION

*A Study in the Surprising Brilliance of Embracing Pain*

A Two Part Series



SESSION ONE:

Cranky Conservatives 5

SESSION TWO:

Kindly Christians 9



## SESSION ONE

# CRANKY CONSERVATIVES

## Irritation

What exactly is it?

## The Different Theories on What Leads to Irritation and Frustration

1. It is a spiritual attack, the niggling of a conspiring demon?
2. It is simply a wrong mentality - a wrong expectation of what life should be and what you deserve?
3. It is a dietary issue?
4. It is derived from a lack of sleep?
5. It is a residual effect of a burdened, anxious soul?

Do everything without grumbling and complaining.

**The Apostle Paul**

*Philippians 2:14*

## The Message of Christ and the Writers of the New Testament

*Eric, endure all the challenges, temptations, and sufferings that come your way patiently, with perseverance, and long-suffering. You must rejoice and maintain an incorrigible cheer in all these trials, and do not be surprised when these surly trials come, but be prepared to give thanks in all these things. And, Eric, when you are struck on one cheek turn to the striker your other cheek also. . Love, kindness, gentleness, and constant cheerfulness must be your life's message in and throughout every one of these events, for these are the evidences of your transformed life in Christ.*

## But, How Exactly Does One Do All This?

## A Different Sort of Response

- Charles Ingalls and the Overpriced Cloth
- Henry and the Boxcar Children
- Miss Hillary and the Little Tumbling Munchkins

## It Starts With a Change of Thinking on Irritation

### My Theory - Irritation is Actually Good

It's how you handle it that makes it constructive rather than destructive

### The Two Kinds of Irritation

1. Destructive
2. Constructive

### My Case for the Virtues of Irritation

1. It's God's chosen means of saintly construction
2. It's the secret avenue through which the soul obtains greater grace and power
3. And its end, if embraced and handled properly, is always the Glory of God

### Irritating Argument #1

*It's God's chosen means of saintly construction*

# A Basic Truth that Would Do Us All Well To Acknowledge

*God knows best!*

## The Eagle and the Nest

For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirs up her nest, flutters over her young, spreads abroad her wings, takes them, bears them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him . . .

**Deuteronomy 32:9-12**

## The Great Mystery of Cranky Conservatives

The subtle distortion of the Truth in the sphere of Religion

*When the Truth is Lacking Jesus*

## The Three Forms of Heresy

2. Doctrinal Heresy - Getting the Message of the Bible wrong
3. Organizational Heresy - Applying the teachings of the Bible incorrectly - in marriage, family, the church, and government

## The Greatest and Most Deadly Form of Heresy

1. Behavioral Heresy - to be right doctrinally and even organizationally correct, but to live, speak, and act in a manner contrary to Jesus Christ

## A Study in the Life of Eric Ludy

The Godly Sort of Life I Esteem

- I like things clean
- I like things in order
- I like my house to smell good
- I like my car to look good
- I like my clothes to be without wrinkles
- I like to be surrounded by pleasant noises
- I like to not spend money. I like to save. I like to see my resources build up and gain interest.

## Are these Bad Desires?

Doesn't God like things clean, in order, smelling fresh, without spot or wrinkle? Doesn't He desire a joyful noise and not a noisome gong? And doesn't He advocate saving, investing, and showing a good return on our talents when He returns?

## The Two Sides to Every Truth

### Judgment and Mercy

The Two Sides of Every Matter - The Letter of Law and the Grace of Love

For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**James 2:13**

### Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

### What is Irritation and Frustration?

It's when Judgment triumphs over Mercy



*Irritation and Frustration is a form of moral heresy, where the soul holds to the letter of judgment and refuses to be in agreement with God's nature of lovingkindness, and thus, aborting God's refining pearl-making work in the soul.*

## SESSION TWO

# KINDLY CHRISTIANS

## A Quick Review on the Benefits of Irritation

1. It's God's chosen means of saintly construction
2. It's the secret avenue through which the soul obtains greater grace and power

3. And its end, if embraced and handled properly, is always the Glory of God

## The Devil's Recipe for Destructive Irritation and Frustration

- **One Part** - Enemy Opportunity
- **One Part** - An Immature Zeal for Good Things Mixed with an Incomplete Understanding of God's Nature (a placing of judgment over mercy)
- **One Part** - Circumstantial Weakness

## Irritating Argument #2

*It's the secret avenue through which the soul obtains greater grace and power*

## A Pearl

What is it?



## The Bible and Pearls

God prizes pearls, utilizing them in His Word as a picture of that which holds the most value - His Shed Blood, His Gospel, and His Gift of Grace. (Matthew 7:6; 13:45-46, 1 Timothy 2:9, Revelation 18:12,16; 21:21)

## Nacre

The Miracle Pearl-Forming Substance

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, **a thorn in the flesh** was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

## The Nacre Version of Paul's Words

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, **a splinter in my inner oyster mantle** was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning **this splinter** I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from **my inner oyster mantle**. And He said to me, **My Nacre is sufficient for you, for My Nacre-strength is powerfully effective in this irritation you are currently facing**. Therefore most gladly I will rather **boast in my splinters, that the Nacre-power of Christ may work upon me**. Therefore I take pleasure **in bits of sand, cuts, and splinters** of every kind for Christ's sake. For **when my inner oyster mantle is irritated, then I am strong with all Nacre-power**.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** (*The Nacre Edition*)

## Irritating Argument #3

*And, it's end, if embraced and handled properly, is always the Glory of God*

## Introducing the Pearl Farmer

## The Rule of Heavenly Luster

For a Pearl of Great Price, There is the Necessity of a Splinter of Great Degree

## The Preciousness of Splinters

*Like grains of sand, these “Splinters” are in abundance in each of our lives, but most, if not all of them are lost and/or destroyed in the harvesting processes. So an actual Splinter, kept and preserved for pearl farming purposes is supremely rare and worth much in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

## Participating with the Pearl Farmer

Laboring to Preserve Every Splinter and Not Lose the Value of Even One that Comes your Way

## Most of us Have Been Rejecting the Irritant

But it's time we changed our thinking

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we **suffer** with Him, that we may be also **glorified** together. For I reckon that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory** which shall be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:17-18**

But rejoice, in as much as you are partakers of Christ's **sufferings**; that, when His **glory** shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy. If you be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are you; for the spirit of **glory** and of God rests upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part **He is glorified**. ... Yet if any man **suffer** as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him **glorify** God on this behalf.

**1 Peter 4:13-14,16**

## So, What's the Secret to Revealing This Glory in Our Lives?

For by **grace** you are saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God

...

**Ephesians 2:8**

For by **the power and work of Nacre** you are saved **through trusting that each and every splinter is working a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God . . .

**Ephesians 2:8** (*The Nacre Edition*)

## Nacre

The Power of The Holy Spirit - The Work of Grace

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

## The Soul's Special Forces

**Lewis - The Captain.** He's responsible for overseeing every action, every movement of this League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. Loo is always smiling, always serving, always cheering on his men. His men love him and would gladly die for him. Whatever he asks, they do it without question - and they do it precisely the way Lewis trained them to do it.

**Jonesy - Mr. Laugh.** The comic in the group.

**Peters - Mr. Calm.** Peters doesn't say much, but works behind the scenes to insure the team is working together and sound of mind.

**Papaduka - Mr. Tough.** Nothing can break this guy. Call him names, Pappy won't stir. Pump him full of bullets, Pappy will keep standing. Try and move him from his position and you will find that it would be easier to move Mt. Kilimanjaro.

**Kruger - Mr. Missionary.** Kroogs is the one that handles the hard stuff - the people. He is fearless in the face of the most hateful characters. Kroogs has never seen a criminal he doesn't love.

**Getz - Mr. Integrity.** Getz makes the right decision, even if it costs him his life.

**Fitzberger - Mr. Splinter.** Fizz can handle any and every splinter. Where most would crumble under the weight of handling these explosive and dangerous dudes, Fizz says, "the bigger the splinter the greater Nacre." And he loves Nacre.

**Janz - Mr. Surgeon.** With all the delicacy of a highly trained brain surgeon, Janzie can take the most inoperable circumstances and somehow bring about health.

**Smithy - Mr. Muscle.** The go-to guy for the muscle jobs. Smithy can swat away demonic enticement like it were a pesky fly and can keep secure the jewels of the soul like a ten-mile thick wall of diamond.

## The Fruit of the Spirit is . . .

The Special Forces of the Christian Life are Lewis, Jonesy, Peters, Papaduka, Kruger, Getz, Fitzberger, Janz, and Smithy. And there is no prohibition in you, a Christian, to calling on them and employing their amazing skill.

**Galatians 5:22-23**  
*(Special Forces Edition)*

## The Secret of Handling Splinters

The Field Guide to Dismantling the Irritation Bomb, Disabling the Perpetrator, and Plundering and Preserving the Precious Pearl-Starting Splinter in the Process

1. Don't ever fear the Irritants - You have the Nacre Special Forces Team, so use it
2. In the first moments you see the tactical Irritation attack against your soul, unleash your Secret Weapon. Turn to Captain Lewis (a.k.a. - Love) and let him lead the team of commandos.
3. Within the first seconds of the attack, let Captain Loo utilize your tongue in order to announce to the intruder, and to all that wish to listen in - "My desires, comforts, and tastes are not of primary concern in this life. Rather, God's Glory is of paramount importance here!"
4. Then, immediately mobilize, under the direct command of Captain Loo, "The Dismantle Crew", the "Attitude Dude" and "The Splinter Rescue Squad".

### **The Dismantle Crew**

A team specially designed to undermine and diffuse the work of Satan in the irritation process - separating the splinter from the one attempting to wield the splinter, and, in the process, disarming the potential bomb and procuring a priceless pearl-starter at the same time.

*featuring the special spiritual skills of . . .*

- Smithy - Mr. Muscle - Self-Control

- Jonesy - Mr. Laugh - Joy
- Peters - Mr. Calm - Peace
- Papaduka - Mr. Tough - Patience

### **The Attitude Dude**

A one-man operation under the direct superintendence of Captain Loo. This specially trained commando is able to dexterously handle the human influence behind the attack of Irritation.

*featuring the special spiritual skills of . . .*

- Kruger - Mr. Missionary - Kindness

### **The Splinter Rescue Squad**

A team specially designed to handle the delicate and precious splinter and insure that it is not lost or harmed in the midst of the fighting. This team knows the power and inherent value in a splinter, and knows how to work in full concert with the Pearl Farmer.

*featuring the special spiritual skills of . . .*

- Getz - Mr. Integrity - Godliness
- Fitzberger - Mr. Splinter - Faith
- Janz - Mr. Surgeon - Gentleness
- Smithy - Mr. Muscle - Self-Control

## Oh, To Reveal Jesus with Our Lives

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Romans 8:28-29**