



**October 2012**

**From the Desk of  
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Dear Friends,

Autumn has always been one of my favorite times of the year. As a kid growing in the farming community of Ransomville, New Year, just outside of Niagara Falls, I looked forward to the crisp cool air of fall and the smell of burning leaves as the smoke rose and swept over the land. I really miss those days.

Another thing I miss is how people treated each other. Our community was small, everyone knew you. Sometimes this was a good thing and other times, like when I got into trouble in town, my punishment was waiting for me when I got home. It was amazing how fast my mother found out “stuff.” Having a party-line telephone helped spread news about anyone or anything quickly. We were a community that took care of each other.

I know that each generation that passes through time brings changes, and for some those changes are not easy to accept. One such change is how we seem to be treating others that do not agree with us with great disdain. At one time there was a process called debate and compromise. It seems to have fallen by the way-side of civility. It seems to be easier to hate or despise those who are different from us than to learn from them.

It appears that instead of sharing our light with them and allowing them to share their light with us we'd rather hide it under the bushel. It's as if we're saying, “My light is a lamp and yours is a candle. My light is better than yours cause the wind can't blow it out or burn down to nothing.” Why can't we look at how we can put the two together to bring greater illumination to our environment? It's as if humanity has forgotten the spiritual mandate to love one another. To love your neighbor as yourself. To also love your enemies. In other words stop judging by appearances and look for the good within others, what connects us as human beings.

The “Golden Rule” comes to mind here and what we as the human race may have forgotten is that it's an awesome spiritual principle found in just about all of the world's cultures and religious teachings.

Buddhism: *One should seek for others the happiness one desires for oneself. Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.*

Chinese: *What you would not wish done to yourself, do not to others.*

Christian: *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

Confucianism: *Do not unto others what you would not they should do unto you.*

Egyptian: *He sought for others the good he desired for himself. Let him pass on.*

Hinduism: *Guard and do by the things of others that they would do by their own. This is the sum of duty; do naught to others which if done by thee would cause thee pain.*

Islam: *Let none of you treat his brother in a way he would himself dislike to be treated. No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.*

Judaism: *What is hurtful to yourself, do not to your fellow man.*

Persian: *Do as you would be done by.*

Taoism: *Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own.*

Zoroastrianism: *Do as you would be done by.*

As I begin my 19<sup>th</sup> year as your spiritual leader of Unity in Bakersfield I will do my best to live by this spiritual principle as taught by Jesus and so many others who came before and after him.

It is my prayer that people everywhere wake up and realize that they are the answer to the way we treat each other, and that if we are to have peace and goodwill in our lives it is up to us to achieve it.

Please join me in affirming: *Awakened to God's presence within, I see all people awakening to their divine potential and spiritual power. And their light shines for all to see.*