



**“Hear, O Israel:
the Lord our God,
the Lord is one.”**



What you wouldn't think

- G. Gough

Where does everyone else go when you are in time of need? Of course it's the question that those in need ask all the time because it's most important for us to tangibly know that people are there for us. When we feel like we can't find our way or see far enough ahead, who do we turn to? I would go further to ask, who turns to us?

This is an important dynamic to understand when working to exemplify Christ in a context that is divisive and tense. As the needy ones, we may not be used to thinking that people should turn to us in our time of need, but maybe it's more Christlike than we feel comfortable with. Our society, to a degree, is built upon a mentality that needy people come to get help because they are needy. They can go to people that are not needy in order to get help.

I think Christ is evidenced more clearly when the not needy people turn to those in need simply because they desire to help them feel valued and cared for. There is no goal to help

them feel not needy. In fact, for the not needy, it's simply an attitude of humbling themselves to be with the needy in a space that is troubling or concerning for them – their time of need.

We don't need to concern ourselves with feelings of abandonment and disillusion. As needy people, we can grow in

**...but maybe it's more
Christlike than we feel
comfortable with.**

ourselves simply because people came alongside us in our time of need. Not because they resolved any particular issue, but simply because they came along.

This is part of the nature of God. God comes alongside in our time of need, not just because we seek him out in our neediness, but because he comes to us.

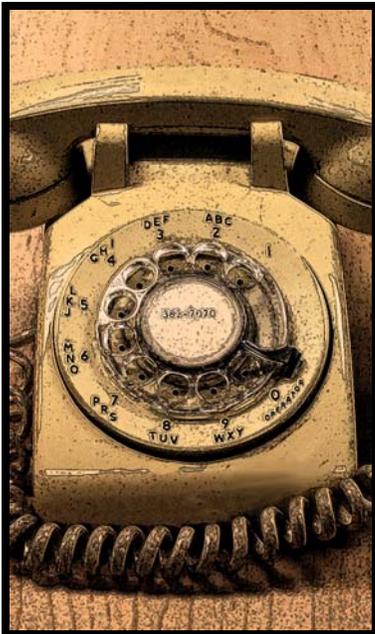
Who will turn to you in your neediness?

Just a few questions about space...

- D. Hartig

"Force of habit, you could say. The way they talk you're talking away."

- S. Winwood, G. Fleming, and J. Hooker



...after some recent conversations:

What kind of space do you make in your life, in your attitudes and responses, in your own emotional space, for those with whom you vehemently disagree? Those whose own attitudes and perceptions and responses seem to set up a wall that says, "You are unacceptable because of....."?

When it has become necessary to remove yourself from communion with another person because of that person's persistent antagonism and toxic behavior toward you, how broadly do you apply that to others you deem to be like that person?

When your beliefs come crashing together with the experiences of another, what space do you allow for your own growth? For their growth? For appreciating and respecting their autonomy? For greater understanding on both parts? For humility?

What kind of space do you allow yourself for just sitting down, shutting

up, and really listening, without agenda?

What do you expect to happen when the space you've created for another seems absolutely untenable to them? When they have no desire, ability, or concept of how to navigate that space you've created?

**"Now there's no point in placing the blame
And you should know I suffer the same
If I lose you
My heart will be broken"**

- M. Ciccone & P. Leonard

What space are you willing to create to facilitate moving toward each other? What space are you willing to create for personal understanding and growth?

And finally, did you put up any defenses against or insert assumptions into these questions – and, if you did, what opportunities might you have missed?

For those who want things to be better.....

If you're reading this, you may have some interest in the conversation between the LGBT and Christian communities. In light of this interest, we'd like to ask you to contribute financially to Bridge Evidence Group's efforts to improve this conversation. Much of our work is dependent on contributions. We are able to do more or less according to the financial support we receive. If you would like to join in this effort, you can make contributions securely, online via Paypal, from our website.

"Well I feel like they're talking in a language I don't speak, and they're talking it to me."

- Coldplay

Second Quarter 2012 Financial Statement

Previous balance	\$3250.43
Total gifts:	\$2000.00
Total expenses:	\$1873.49
<hr/>	
Fund Balance:	\$3376.94

Bridge Evidence Group is a 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to financial transparency and accountability.