



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

For a lot of families, the month just past is their annual reconvention around a communal table. For 11 months each year, meals are often consumed “on the go;” even sit-down chow becomes “fast food,” when everyone has somewhere else they need to be.

The dining room has become so exceptional that the ground rules for civility are frequently recounted before the main course is placed on the altar, at the center. If the assemblage is extended - rather than nuclear, with crayons and boosters - here’s the referee’s warning, before the first bell: “Keep it clean, above the belt... and no politics, or religion.”

No politics or religion? Highly unlikely, at least on the political side of the coin. These days, it seems that no interchange among adults can occur without an uncontrollable departure into the political arena. Deeply held opinions are like floodwaters: they may be delayed, but they cannot be dismissed.



Last week, on Fox News Sunday, Brit Hume was seated as a panelist on Chris Wallace’s FOX News Sunday program, when he set off a firestorm that is still smoldering. The issue in play was the recent debacle swirling around Tiger Woods. Hume offered this opinion: “Tiger Woods will recover as a golfer. Whether he can recover as a person, I think is a very open question and T’s a tragic situation. I think he’s lost his family; it’s not clear to me whether he’ll be able to have a relationship with his children. But the Tiger Woods that emerges once the news value of this scandal – the extent to which he can recover – seems to me to depend on his faith. He’s said to be a Buddhist; I don’t think this faith offers the kind of forgiveness and redemption that is

offered by the Christian faith. So my message to Tiger would be, 'Tiger, turn to the Christian faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world.'"

Is Tiger Woods a Buddhist? His own testimony: "I practice meditation. That is something that I do, that my mum taught me over the years. We also have a thing we do every year, where we go to temple together. In the Buddhist religion you have to work for it yourself, internally, in order to achieve anything in life and set up the next life. It is all about what you do and you get out of it what you put into it."

Brit Hume's testimony is clear, as well: "I want to pursue my faith more ardently than I have done. I'm not claiming it's impossible to do when you work in this business. I was kind of a nominal Christian for the longest time. When my son died (*in February, 1998*), I came to Christ in a way that was very meaningful to me. If a person is a Christian and tries to face up to the implications of what you say you believe, it's a pretty big thing. If you do it part time, you're not really living it."

At the journalism table, the discussion of political issues is "fair game;" it seems that the mention of a

redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ draws a yellow flag and a 15-yard penalty with loss of a down, to hear the Monday morning quarterbacks' opinions this last week.

Thanks, Brit, for speaking up. Would that more of us who are imperfect - but forgiven - followers of Jesus Christ would be willing to do that, as Peter suggested, 2000 years ago: "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*" (1 Peter 3:15-16)

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