

Elder Bobby Willis



I Samuel 17:1-54

We are hearing a lot these days about Bullies; those who attempt to push their will on others, who love to intimidate, and want control at all cost. This is nothing new! There have been bullies from the very first ones born in this world. Cain took bullying to the highest level when he killed his own brother, Abel.

Bullies are encountered everywhere we go: at school, on our jobs, among our neighbors, on the bus, train, or plane, and even in our churches. Those who try to impose their own ideas and ways on other church members without any consideration of the feelings of others are simply bullies.

What constitutes a bully? They have no empathy for others, they have a need to control, get angry quickly, tell others of their weaknesses or shortcomings but never admit their own, often threaten, and at times will use physical aggression. I witnessed this first hand when teaching school and must admit, have seen it in most of the settings mentioned.

The Bible relates the stories of a number of bullies. Consider the 10 brothers of Joseph in their jealousy, Haman in the time of Esther and Mordecai, or even the Pharisees for that matter. If you could have asked Israel or King Saul, they would have considered Goliath as a real Bully. If you could have ask David, he could have related all the aspects of King Saul being a Bully.

Goliath reminds me of so many bullies I have encountered down through the years. He was arrogant: **“when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him:...”** He had no respect for David, **“Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?...”** And, like most bullies, Goliath thought he was greater than everyone else which prompted David to say, **“for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”** (I Samuel 17:25).

Perhaps it would do us all good to consider our own status. Are we exhibiting any attributes that even remotely could be those of a bully, especially among our church brothers and sisters? Do we seek our own will, and not the will of our Heavenly Father? Do we push for our own way rather than considering the feeling of others? Are we forever correcting others while thinking we have no faults of our own? Do we intimidate others by our actions and words? If so, we are just a plain old bully.

Notice the words of Paul in I Corinthians 3:18, **“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.”** The Psalmist David had it right when he said, **“I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness”** (Psalm 84:10). Now, that sounds like a much better condition than being a bully in the house of the Lord. ***“Think About IT!”***