

The Ties that Bind or Set Us Free | BY BONNIE DWYER

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Family conversations about money, especially when you have very little, can move quickly into arguments with pointed fingers. The saver versus the spender. After a couple of such heated sessions early in my marriage, it dawned on me that we were both really trying to do the same thing. My thrifty husband wanted to build a nest egg to take care of the family and provide for our future. I wanted to purchase things to make our home comfortable and attractive. We both had the same goal of wanting to take care of the family, but we had very different ideas about how to accomplish that goal. Acknowledging our mutual goal helped take some of the heat out of the budget discussions.

Taking care of the church is another goal that can be visualized in very different ways. There are those who understand Total Member Involvement as an official church program for evangelizing the world and including lay people in the process. And then there are those who hear those words “Total Member Involvement” and think of the Priesthood of All Believers and the need to engage both men and women equally in the ministry of the church. There are those who think the vote of the church in San Antonio against allowing divisions to ordain women means that the unions that do ordain women are out of compliance with church policy. There are those who see the same vote as, to use a phrase Ted Wilson himself put into play, “changing nothing,” which is what he said the day after the vote was taken. Church

policy that specifies unions are the level of the church to decide on women’s ordination was not changed, so unions can continue making the decisions on who is ordained in their territory. Those people are taken aback by the push from the church administration to develop “consequences” for those entities that are “out of compliance.”

Would acknowledging that we have the same goal of taking care of the church take some of the heat out of the current church debate?

In this issue of the journal, we have a collection of articles arranged in a topical fashion. In the Noteworthy section, we’ve grouped together articles about the “Uplifting Jesus” document that came out in April right after Spring Meetings. We’ve pulled together book reviews at the end of the journal. Discussion of the Apocalypse is in the Bible Section. But the ideas in the various articles go beyond the boundaries of the organizing topic. Gerald Winslow’s discussion of freedom and neighbor love might influence how you understand the news in the Noteworthy section, for instance. I mention this because our goal in this issue is to help you think about seemingly common topics in new ways.

Our hope is that ideas that set our minds free can also draw us together, help us to see our common goals. Such ideas can bind us together as family by helping us to understand each other even if we see things differently. ■

Bonnie Dwyer is editor of *Spectrum* magazine.