

On Whose Side?

We might often look around us and see all the lamentable mess. Around the world we see conflict and violence between countries and peoples and the powerlessness of people who are caught up in it. We see the mess of controversies about policies or appointments in national or international life. Maybe a lack of due process; maybe someone should not have been trusted but was only seeking their own advantage in money, power, image or status. It might be the mess of an incident involving violence or abuse and the victims involved and shortcomings in the treatment or investigation of the incident. It might be in individual or family life where something has gone wrong.



In most cases someone somewhere will indicate that there are sides to be taken. Are you on the side of the victim or the aggressor? But what about taking pre-emptive action in self-defence? What about the escalating violence and consequent victims of a tit for tat approach? Are you on the side of those who acted in ignorance when they made what turned out to be an unwise decision or appointment? Or on the side of those who found their interests ignored somewhere in the process or consequences? Which side have you taken in the row that has caused a mess in relationships in the family, neighbourhood or community?

Sometimes someone somewhere might claim that right, justice or God is on their side. Two things:

Firstly, the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus indicate that God is on the side of the victim, the powerless and the marginalised.

Secondly, it is not about whose side God is on but whether we're on God's side.

Revd. David Muskett, Petersfield Methodist Church