

Case Studies

This case study is an all too familiar story of tunnel vision. Young or old, we often see things only one way, and we are convinced that our way is the only way! It is a study in human nature and a study of ourselves. It is also a study in human relationships and how they are affected by the opinion that we have of our own opinions! Read the story and answer the questions provided at the end.

Scrambled Eggs and Ecclesial Life A Case Study in "My Way or the Highway"

It was late Saturday morning. The ecclesial breakfast, sponsored by the CYC, was going well. Two of the young people were working in the kitchen. Tom was at the stove, preparing an order of scrambled eggs. Sue was nearby keeping a close eye on him.

"You'd better stir the eggs," Sue ordered.

"They're alright," Tom replied, "They are doing fine."

"You have to stir scrambled egg," Sue insisted. "That's why they're called scrambled eggs!"

"No you don't," Tom said quietly as he stood and watched the yellow mass of eggs cooking in the pan.

"Yes you do," Sue shot back. "Stir the eggs, Tom! You've *got* to stir the eggs!"

But Sue was younger than Tom, so a higher authority was appealed to. "Grandma," Sue called to her grandmother, who was enjoying breakfast nearby, "Don't you have to stir scrambled eggs?"

"Yes, dear," was the reply of the unsuspecting grandmother.

"See?" Sue gloated. "See? You do, too, have to stir them!"

Tom simply ignored Sue and in a few minutes turned out a beautiful plate of scrambled eggs.

Questions:

1 – What lessons about ecclesial life can we learn from this plate of scrambled eggs?

- 2 – What can we learn about ourselves from this story?
- 3 – What cautions does this story raise about the way we judge others?
- 4 – After this incident, do you think that Sue and her friends should get the CYC to pass a rule that scrambled eggs *must be stirred* at all future ecclesial breakfasts?

While this might seem absurd, do we sometimes lobby for rules that make everybody else do things the way we think they should be done? If so, why are we like this? What would this rule do to the CYC?

- 5 – What does the Bible have to say about things like this? You might start by looking at the Apostle Paul. He was absolutely convinced that he was right (Acts 26:9-11) until his life was turned upside down on the Damascus Road. What did Paul do then?

Read Proverbs 26:12. Does it sound like this kind of person is willing to change his opinion?

Read Luke 18:9-14. Did the Pharisee think he was right? Was he?

Can you think of any other Bible passages that apply?