

Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

Don't Be A Sourpuss
 Cultural observ-
 er L.T. Tribe II wrote,
 "In the drowning sea
 of negativity, the pos-
 itives lurk deep be-
 neath... waiting to
 emerge with a smile,
 a laugh, and a word of
 encouragement. Their
 joy cannot be contained
 despite the noise of the
 naysayers and doubt-
 ers. They will not en-
 gage in or entertain
 such foolishness. Their
 DNA compels them to
 share their positive
 outlook, exposing the
 darkness of doubt and
 toxic behavior/words.
 They will not engage,
 but they cannot be
 drowned. Their emer-
 gence reminds us that
 kindness, grace, humil-
 ity, laughter," and joy
 are not dependent upon
 circumstance."

I think Tribe is onto
 something important
 regarding our world.
 This is not a political
 observation, but one of
 culture. The increas-
 ingly heightened tones
 of conversations re-
 garding science, poli-
 tics, religion, race, and
 social and economic is-
 sues seem to have lost
 all manner of civility.
 Today, it's not enough
 to disagree with those
 who hold a different
 opinion. It seems we
 have to denigrate their
 character, position,
 family, and company
 verbally, through so-
 cial media, or word of
 mouth. Unmoored ru-
 mors, innuendo, and
 gossip have become fair
 game in response to
 those who are different,
 or with whom we dis-
 agree. Enough has been
 written on this current
 phenomenon so I would
 rather press into what
 Tribe is really saying.

L.T. Tribe is hope-
 ful. While he captures
 this wounding way, he
 offers optimism as the
 perfect response. A
 friend in leadership is
 fond of saying, "Neg-
 ative breeds negative
 and positive breeds
 positive." Think about
 that simple statement.
 It's true. Who among
 us hasn't gotten caught
 up with a naysayer or a
 "negative Nancy/Nick"
 at least once? It's easy
 to do. It's the path of
 least resistance. We
 don't have to think for
 ourselves, instead, we
 just pile on with the
 crowd. I've been guilty
 of it many times and it
 always leads to a black
 hole for me. It takes me
 to a place that's dark
 and pejorative toward
 the person, or matter at
 hand.

Hear me out, I'm
 not saying we shouldn't
 disagree with others,
 voice our opinion, or
 hold critical thought.
 Like Tribe, I'm simply
 asking all of us why
 we can't suspend judg-
 ment, think critically,
 and offer something
 positive to these con-
 versations. When we
 just jump on the band-
 wagon and pounce with-
 out thinking we join a
 runaway train of igno-
 rance.

My late father was
 one of the most positive
 people I've ever known.
 He did not entertain
 chronically negative, or
 angry people. In private
 after an encounter with
 one, he would often say,
 "He/she is just a sour-
 puss." For Dad that

was close to swearing.
 Things had to be pretty
 bad if he said this about
 someone. Do you know
 a sourpuss? Sit next to
 one at work? Married to
 or live with one? Live
 next door to one? Have
 one in the family? Most
 of them are lonely and
 incredibly insecure peo-
 ple. Peel back the layers
 of their lives and you
 will find a scab from
 an emotional wound
 long ago. Someone hurt
 them at some point, or
 they were indoctrinated
 to this bent. Their nat-
 ural response is always
 one of anger, vitriol, or
 judgment.

Jesus had a lot to
 say on this subject. One
 of his most poignant
 comments was on how
 we respond to enemies:
 "You have heard that
 it was said, 'Love your
 neighbor and hate your
 enemy.' But I tell you,
 love your enemies and
 pray for those who
 persecute you, that you
 may be children of your
 Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:43-45)

Sometimes He used
 silence as a response.
 For example when Pil-
 late sent Jesus before
 King Herod because the
 Temple leaders wanted
 him stopped. "When
 Herod saw Jesus, he
 was greatly pleased,
 because for a long time
 he had been wanting to
 see him. From what he
 had heard about him,
 he hoped to see him
 perform a sign of some
 sort. He plied him with
 many questions, but
 Jesus gave him no an-
 swer." (Luke 23:8-9)

Sometimes silence is
 the best way to respond
 to critical spirits, es-
 pecially those who are
 closed-minded. Other
 times call for a breath
 of fresh air. Years ago
 I was present in a lunch
 discussion about a pro-
 fessional colleague who
 was not present. The
 criticism had gotten
 out of hand and resorted
 to flat-out character
 attacks. The oldest and
 wisest person in the
 group hadn't uttered a
 word. Someone asked
 him what he thought
 about the person. He
 looked up from his meal
 and simply said, "I hear
 he is a great father and
 totally engaged with
 his family." The en-
 tire tone and tenor of
 the conversation expe-
 rienced a cataclysmic
 shift through a mere 13
 words.

The old turtle shut
 down the negative com-
 ments with a brilliant
 counter-offensive that
 did not attack or insult
 the participants. He
 simply offered a posi-
 tive comment in truth.
 It shifted the conver-
 sation and the group
 moved on to another
 topic. Afterward, I
 caught him later in the
 day and asked about
 his remarks. He sim-
 ply said, "I barely know
 him, but I do know he
 is a great father be-
 cause our kids play in
 the same soccer league.
 He is 100% present and
 active in their lives and
 that counts for me." Did
 you catch it?

This man was pres-
 ent for the lions shred-
 ding the carcass of a
 colleague and yet he
 responded with un-
 disputed truth. He
 didn't even acknowl-
 edge their previous

character-crashing
 comments. He simply
 offered another per-
 spective. Instead of
 tearing down, he built
 the man in question up.
 I was intrigued and had
 a lot of respect for this
 man of quiet faith. I fol-
 lowed up and asked him
 why he chose to go in
 the direction he did. He
 quoted his mother and
 said something all of
 us have heard, but few
 abide: "Find the good
 in others." He confid-
 ed that years before he
 was a hot-head (which I
 couldn't believe) and he
 asked God to help him
 with his attitude. He
 said he made a choice.
 He could be part of the
 problem, or offer solu-
 tions. He chose the lat-
 ter and said it had made
 all the difference.

What if we as
 Christ-followers

stopped silently or ver-
 bally approving the
 negative discourse and
 asked ourselves some
 penetrating questions
 before we choose to
 speak: Is this person
 present? Do I person-
 ally know them? How do
 my comments further
 the cause of Christ?
 Ouch! The last one is
 a track-stopper! Are
 the words I'm about to
 speak going to promote
 Christ, or stain His
 words and life model
 in the Bible? What tes-
 timony will my words
 provide about my char-
 acter?

And if we think just
 not saying something
 when a group is attack-
 ing someone or some-
 thing we can consider
 the words of Abraham
 Lincoln, "To sin by sil-
 ence makes cowards of

men." We need to find
 ways to make positive
 contributions to our
 conversations. After
 all the men and women
 who profess to follow
 Jesus Christ should be
 the most positive peo-
 ple on earth. We need
 to be careful because,
 at any point in time,
 we could be the subject
 of such conversations.
 How would we want
 others to talk about us?
 Don't be a sourpuss!
 Agape, Monty

P.S. The colleague
 being attacked in the
 story above was a Chris-
 tian and active member
 of his church. No, ev-
 eryone present was not,
 but three of us were.
 Shame on me for sin-
 ning by silence so long
 ago. Lesson learned.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
 The City of Sturgis is accepting sealed bids for a house and lot located at 1109 Washington Street in Sturgis. Sealed bids can be brought to the Sturgis City Hall between 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Sealed bids can also be mailed to the City of Sturgis, P.O. Box 98, Sturgis, KY 42439. Bids will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, June 2. Bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Sturgis City Council on Monday, June 5, at 6:00 P.M.

KENT GAYLE, Mayor
 City of Sturgis
 6/2/23

UNION COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

-- NOTICE --

On January 20, 2023, Commission Staff issued its written report containing its recommendations regarding Union District's proposed rate adjustment. The Commission Staff's Report can be found at https://psc.ky.gov/pscscf/2022%20Cases/2022-00160/20230120_STAFF_REPORT.pdf. In its report, Commission Staff recommend the following rates:

	Existing Rates	Commission Staffs Recommended Rates	\$ Change	% Change
3/8-inch Meter				
First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 13.79 Min. Bill	\$ 15.18 Min. Bill	\$ 1.390000	10.08%
Next 3,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0089 per Gallon	\$ 0.0073 per Gallon	\$ 0.001740	10.74%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0049 per Gallon	\$ 0.0079 per Gallon	\$ 0.002700	10.79%
Next 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0014 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.003300	10.75%
Next 25,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001300	10.79%
Next 50,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0058 per Gallon	\$ 0.000400	10.71%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
3/4-inch Meter				
First 5,000 Gallons	\$ 34.45 Min. Bill	\$ 38.56 Min. Bill	\$ 4.110000	10.48%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0049 per Gallon	\$ 0.0079 per Gallon	\$ 0.002700	10.79%
Next 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0014 per Gallon	\$ 0.0060 per Gallon	\$ 0.004600	10.75%
Next 25,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001300	10.79%
Next 50,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0058 per Gallon	\$ 0.000400	10.71%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
1-inch Meter				
First 10,000 Gallons	\$ 66.90 Min. Bill	\$ 74.01 Min. Bill	\$ 7.110000	10.63%
Next 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0014 per Gallon	\$ 0.0060 per Gallon	\$ 0.004600	10.75%
Next 25,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001300	10.79%
Next 50,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0058 per Gallon	\$ 0.000400	10.71%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
1 1/2-inch Meter				
First 25,000 Gallons	\$ 159.00 Min. Bill	\$ 178.04 Min. Bill	\$ 17.040000	10.72%
Next 25,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0060 per Gallon	\$ 0.000600	10.44%
Next 50,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001300	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
2-inch Meter				
First 50,000 Gallons	\$ 303.00 Min. Bill	\$ 337.78 Min. Bill	\$ 32.780000	10.75%
Next 50,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001030	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.002900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
2 1/2-inch Meter				
First 75,000 Gallons	\$ 440.99 Min. Bill	\$ 498.43 Min. Bill	\$ 47.440000	10.76%
Next 25,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0047 per Gallon	\$ 0.001030	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.002900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
3-inch Meter				
First 100,000 Gallons	\$ 578.99 Min. Bill	\$ 639.09 Min. Bill	\$ 62.100000	10.78%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0034 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.002900	10.85%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.0063 per Gallon	\$ 0.000900	10.85%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
4-inch Meter				
First 200,000 Gallons	\$ 1,080.99 Min. Bill	\$ 1,197.41 Min. Bill	\$ 116.420000	10.77%
Next 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0046 per Gallon	\$ 0.0054 per Gallon	\$ 0.000800	10.78%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
6-inch Meter				
First 300,000 Gallons	\$ 1,544.97 Min. Bill	\$ 1,711.42 Min. Bill	\$ 166.450000	10.77%
Over 300,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0024 per Gallon	\$ 0.0040 per Gallon	\$ 0.001600	10.85%
Water Loss Reduction Surcharge		\$ 1.72 per Gallon	N/A	N/A

For a residential customer with an average monthly usage of 4,000 gallons of water, the monthly water bill, including the Water Loss Reduction Surcharge, would increase from \$27.57 to \$32.16. This is an increase of \$4.59 or 16.65%.

Comments regarding the Public Service Commission Staff's recommended rates may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through the Commission's Web Site at <http://psc.ky.gov>, by mail to the Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602 or by e-mail to pscinfo@ky.gov. Union District's application is docketed as Case No. 2022-00160. Comments should be submitted no later than 21 days from the publication date of this notice.