

Which Kind of Tator?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Some time ago in a sermon at Corinth we took a humorous look at a serious subject. There are scriptures all through the bible that tell of those who stirred up trouble, such as Acts 13:50.

It says, "But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts." These people were agitators who went around stirring up trouble. There are other kinds of "tators" and so I asked, "Which kind of tator are you?"

Looking at the agitator for a moment we see that there are still some around today. Whether they intend to, or not, they cause trouble. One man caused problems a lot of the times under the guise of starting a discussion. He told me one time, "People think I'm a troublemaker, but I'm just trying to get people to talk." The bible says, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." Hebrews 10:24.

Then there is the commentator. This person is easy to spot, or rather

to hear. He, or she, will have something to say about everything, and everyone. Such a person is not likely to do much to try to help in the Lord's work, but will know how the person trying to serve should do it. If this person is generous you might hear, "Well it is alright, but you could have done it better this way." Isn't it funny how that often the person who claims to know how to do it better, never seems to have the time to help?

Once in a while you may see a devastator. This person causes problems even worse than the agitator. When you hear of a church breaking up, people hurt spiritually and great harm done, it is the work of a devastator. The devastator is going to get his way no matter what the cost.

Next comes the dictator. This person is a control-freak and has to have a say in everything. Well, not just "a say," but "The say" in everything. A dictator will pout, quit, or take other actions to show his anger. He will feel threatened if anyone tries to do something that he didn't think of. I think one such person was said to act like there was two ways to do something - his way and the wrong way. When will people ever learn that the best way, and the only way that is good is God's way.

Thank God for the facilitator. This is the person who helps to get something done. This person helps, encourages, and does what ever can be done

to help. The congregation who has some of these is blessed. Such a person doesn't look for credit, or thanks, he, or she, just serves the Lord.

Have you seen an imitator? This person will try to be like someone else, someone that they are impressed with, or that is liked. An imitator tries to fit in and copy others, or just to go along with the crowd, or the majority.

I have heard of some who claimed that they were the fighting Irish. I guess a person like that would be an Irish-tator. God's people are to love one another and the only fighting we're supposed to do is against sin and the devil. James 4:1, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" This is not of God, for he is the author of peace and love.

Then there are the spectators. Spectators don't get involved and take part in things. They just watch but can't bring themselves to get involved. You may never know what they think about things, either good or bad.

I'm sure that there are other kinds of "tators." I suppose a person who is encouraging, kind and helpful could be classed as a "Sweet-tator." A person may be more than one kind, depending on the situation. This might sound silly to some people, but give it some thought. Which kind of tator are you?

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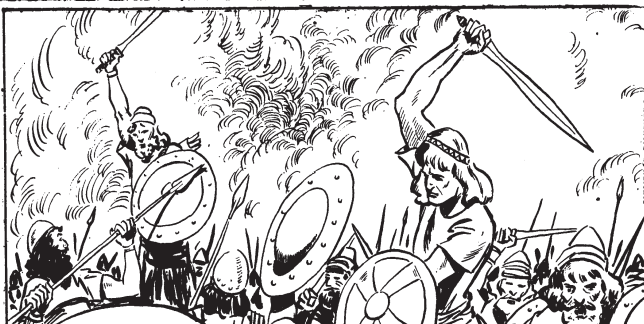
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