

**Following Jesus**  
**14, Principles of Kingdom Living #5:**  
**“There is no try” (Dos and Don’ts of Relationships in the Kingdom)**  
**Matthew 7:1-12**

- I. Message – “Principles of kingdom-living #5: There is no try
- a. **DON’T: be judgy** (judgmental) – what does this take? (2 things)
    - i. First, don’t be critical other others
      - 1. “1 Judge not...”
        - a. Not talking about being undiscerning
        - b. Christians MUST be discerning
          - i. The church must judge between innocence and guilt as final step of discipline – **Matthew 18:17** “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”
          - ii. The church must judge between truth and error – **Galatians 1:8** “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”
          - iii. The church must judge between dividers and uniters – **Romans 16:17** “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”
    - c. What IS he saying?
      - i. Don’t be critical of others!
      - ii. **Luke 18:9-14** “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican...”
        - 1. God hates this human tendency:
        - 2. God hates self-righteous condemnation of others
        - 3. Not talking about discerning good/evil
        - 4. He’s talking of despising other PEOPLE for their lack of “comparative righteousness”
2. When you criticize others, you forget 2 REALLY important things:
  - a. **You forget who God is:** He is the final Judge and He has given the responsibility of final judgment to His Son, Jesus
    - i. “1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

- ii. John 5:26-27 “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment...”
- iii. When I criticize and despise others, I forget this
  - 1. I put myself in the place of Jesus
  - 2. How presumptuous, even blasphemous!

**b. Secondly, you forget who you are: a big sinner**

- i. Rather than criticize/despise, deal with your own sin
- ii. “3 And why beholdest thou the mote (sliver) that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”
- iii. Romans 14:12-13 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more:”
  - 1. We are so blind to our own faults
  - 2. We are so quick to judge and criticize others
  - 3. For some of us, this has become such a normal way of life, that we can't even see it
  - 4. It is our default, our M-O
    - a. **This is the problem with sin-planks**
    - b. **They blind us to our sin-plank!**
- iv. We are forgetting who God is and we are forgetting who we are: just big sinners, saved by big grace, standing before a holy God Who will judge all against the standard of a perfect Savior!
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 11:28 “But let a man examine himself...”
  - 2. 1 John 1:10 “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
  - 3. Luke 16:14-15 “And he said unto [the Pharisees], Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”

**ii. Second, confront error at the right time and in the right way**

- 1. Help others with their sin
  - a. “5... first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”
  - b. Don't use this command as an excuse to refuse confrontation of sin (in us, then others)

c. Psalm 51:13 “**Then** will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”

2. Be discerning of doctrinal error

a. “6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

b. You would never give something sacred to a dog or throw it into the pig pen to be trampled

i. That would be at the least disrespectful

ii. Perhaps even blasphemous

iii. But the context here is discernment

iv. Don't let what is holy (doctrine) be dirtied and desecrated by spiritual dogs or unclean pigs, scavengers, mongrels, wolves in sheep's clothing

v. Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

3. **This is what love (the hallmark characteristic) doesn't do**

a. It does not criticize and condemn judgmentally

b. But it ALSO does not allow error to pervade and ruin the church

c. It does not

i. Look for sin in everyone else

ii. But is also does not allow sin go undealt with

**b. DO: be selfless**

i. “12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

ii. V.12 is the key of the whole passage – known as the Golden Rule

1. Do to others WHAT YOU WISH they would do for you

a. 2 Timothy 3:2-4 “For men shall be lovers of their own selves...”

b. Philippians 2:21 “For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.”

i. People without Jesus love themselves

ii. They accuse, fight, envy, hate, seek their own benefit

**iii. Jesus says, MY subjects are different!**

1. Love God, Love others...Vertical, horizontal

2. Jesus is driving them to a conclusion: we are unworthy of the kingdom

3. Those that understand that

4. Are ready for the gospel!

2. What about v.7-11?

a. Look at the start of v.12 for a moment

- b. "Therefore"
- c. Based on v.7-11, do the Golden Rule
- d. What truth is there for us to base this radical love on?
  - i. I can give up what I think I need, because God has promised to supply my needs!
  - ii. 7 Ask and receive
  - iii. Seek and find
  - iv. Knock and enter
  - v. 11...how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?
  - vi. Trust your good Father to provide good gifts

## II. Conclusion

- i. Conclusion #1 – Is your default mode judgmentalism?
  - 1. Critical of others and Christians in particular?
  - 2. Some of us are **really stuck** in this mode
  - 3. Nobody does things the way YOU think they should
  - 4. Confess that as sin and work on your own "beams" instead!
- ii. Conclusion #2 – Are you actually living the Golden Rule?
  - 1. Do you afford others patience you want them to have with you?
  - 2. Do you give others the benefit of the doubt you want to have?
  - 3. Do you empathize with people you don't particularly LIKE?
  - 4. Do you sacrifice your hard-earned resources for others' benefit?
    - a. This is the Golden Rule
    - b. And Jesus expects this of His subjects!