

How to Treat Others

Matthew 7:12

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. Events that captured the public eye underscore the need for all to learn how to treat others.

- A. Mass shootings
- B. Vitriol in politics
- C. Lawsuits at the drop of the hat
- D. General decline in interpersonal relationships

2. The Bible gives practical instruction along this line.

A. There were various laws and ordinances in the Old Testament that dealt with one's treatment of others.

B. Leviticus 19 is a good example (Rom. 15:4):

- ☛ Treating others properly was part of “*You shall be holy, for I the Lord am holy*” (v. 2)
- ☛ Respect for parents (v. 3).
- ☛ Leave “*gleanings of your harvest*” for the poor (vv. 9-10).
- ☛ Don't steal, cheat or lie (v. 11).
- ☛ Don't rob (v. 13).
- ☛ Don't make fun of the handicapped (v. 14).
- ☛ Treat everyone with impartiality (v. 15).
- ☛ Don't talk behind other's back (v. 16).
- ☛ Don't hold animosity against your neighbor (v. 17).
- ☛ Don't hold grudges and take your own vengeance (v. 18).
- ☛ Show respect to the elderly (v. 32).
- ☛ Don't mistreat strangers, love them as yourself (vv. 33-34).
- ☛ Totally honesty in business dealings (vv. 35-36).

3. ** The New Testament also teaches us to mindful of others:

A. We should treat others properly because it is simply the right thing to do (Lev. 19:2).

Phil. 2:3-4: “*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*”

1 Cor. 10:24: “*Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*”

Jas. 2:8: “*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well;*”

B. How we treat others will also affect their attitudes toward the gospel.

1 Cor. 10:33: “*...just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*”

2 Cor. 6:3: “*We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.*”

4. **3** Let's take a “refresher course” on how we are to treat others?

II. DISCUSSION:

How does the Lord want us to treat others? With...

1. Reciprocity:

- A. By that, the Bible simply means we should treat others as we want to be treated: “The Golden Rule”:

Matt. 7:12: “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.”

- B. Think how better this world would be, if everyone practiced this teaching?

- C. ** The world’s standard is: “Stick it to others before they stick it to you!” Solomon said:

Prov. 24:29: “Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.”

- (1) This betrays a vengeful spirit!

- (2) Vengeance belongs to God, not us!

Deut. 32:35: “To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”

Psa. 94:1: “O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.”

Rom. 12:19-21: “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

- (3) ** Christ calls His people to very high ethic: Sermon on the Mount: Matt. 5:9-12, 38-48

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2. 5 Love:

- A. Do you recall Jesus’ discussion with the “lawyer” in Matthew 22?

- (1) The Jewish authorities were desperately trying to ruin Jesus’ credibility with the people; so they tried to spring several traps on Him in an effort to get Him to say something which would contradict the Law of Moses.

- (2) This “lawyer” was no different; Matthew says he “asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 ‘Master, which is the great commandment in the law?’”

- B. Jesus answered, (Matt 22:37-40): “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- (1) They didn’t even attempt to challenge Him! For they knew Leviticus 19 when the Lord said: “...thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself...”

- (2) ** Paul taught similarly:

Rom. 13:9-10: “For this, ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

C. The word “love” is to have a preference for, wish well to, and regard the welfare of.

Phil. 2:3-4: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

D. Even our enemies are to be treated with love! Matt. 5:43-46

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3. 6 Honor:

A. Peter penned these words: “Honour all men...” (1 Pet. 2:17).

(1) The meaning is to have in honor, to revere, venerate. Paul writes:

Rom. 13:7: “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”

(2) ** There are many to whom honor is due:

- ☛ Those in authority (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:17).
- ☛ Father and mother (Eph. 6:2).
- ☛ Widows (1 Tim. 5:3).
- ☛ Elders (1 Tim. 5:17).
- ☛ Employers (1 Tim. 6:1).
- ☛ Husbands and wives (Eph. 5:33; 1 Pet. 3:7).

B. ** Such a disposition requires a spirit of humility and subjection:

1 Pet. 5:5: “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

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4. 7 Compassion:

A. We see a wonderful example of compassion in the account of the “good Samaritan” (Lk. 10:30-37); the text says he “...had compassion on...” (v. 33) the man who fell among thieves.

- (1) He not only felt compassion he showed it “And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (v. 34).
- (2) He even went so far as to insure the man’s further care: “And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, ‘Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.’” (v. 35)
- (3) To have compassion is (KJV) to be moved as to one’s bowels, to have the bowels (inward part) yearn with love, care, concern, and pity (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity).

B. ** This Samaritan certainly exemplified the spirit of Christ!

- (1) When Jesus saw the widow of Nain (Lk. 7:11-17) whose only son had just died; Luke tells us, “when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, ‘Weep not.’” (Lk. 7:13)

- (2) Then, like the “good Samaritan, Jesus showed compassion: *“And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, ‘Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.’ 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.”* (vv. 14, 15)
- C. ** Likewise, we ought to do all that we can whenever and wherever we can to help whoever we can along life’s difficult journey.
- (1) It is not enough to feel compassion; we need to express it by lending a hand!
- (2) Lending a helping hand gives us a living faith!
- Jas. 2:14-17:** *“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*
- (3) ** Such will be an important criteria of our judgment (Matt. 25:31-46): *“Verily I say unto you, ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.’”* (v. 40)

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5. 8 Kindness and courtesy:

- A. Paul tells us, *“Charity...,”* (KJV) or “love” (NKJV), *“...is kind...”* (1 Cor. 13:4).
- (1) Kindness and courtesy are rare commodities in today’s society.
- (2) Most people are willing to think the worst of others; give no “benefit of the doubt”; look no further than the current state of affairs in politics.
- B. But again, Paul tells us, *“And be ye kind one to another...”* (Eph. 4:32)
- (1) He expands on this even further in Colossians 3:12: *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness...”*
- (2) Peter says, *“...be courteous”* (1 Pet. 3:8).
- C. “Common courtesy” doesn’t seem to be so common anymore.
- (1) Saying ‘thank you,’ holding the door open for someone behind you, offering someone your seat, saying ‘goodbye’ when you leave, listening to someone speak without interrupting them, throwing your garbage in a bin, putting your phone down, letting someone in front of you, etc.
- (2) ** My pet peeves are people in a grocery store (or any store) that stand in the middle of the aisle and block it; totally oblivious to anyone else’s presence.
- (a) Another pet peeve are people and their ‘smart phones’; do I need to explain?!
- (b) People with lottery tickets at the convenience store.
- D. ** The world needs a good dose of kindness and common courtesy!
- (1) You are not at the center of the Universe!
- (2) Kindness and courtesy should be the hallmark of all Christians! Eph. 4:32; 1 Pet. 3:8

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6. 9 Impartiality:

- A. Think about it: God is totally impartial!

Acts 10:34-35: “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, ‘Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.’”

- (1) It doesn’t matter to God how rich you are, how handsome, how young, how old, how famous, how powerful, where you live, what color, nationality, or sex, etc.
- (2) He treats everybody the same:

Rom. 2:5-11: “...the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.”

B. ** God expects (demands!) the same impartiality from us! Jas. 2:1-9

- (1) Did you catch that? Showing partiality is a sin! **Jas. 2:9:** “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”
- (2) I should not expect any special treatment because of the color of my skin, how rich or how poor I am, the level of my education, where I went to school, where I’m from, who I’m related to, what “big name” preacher I know, etc.
- (3) All men are made in God’s and bleed the same blood (Gen. 1:26-27; Acts 17:26).
- (4) So, I need to show impartiality, love, compassion, etc. to all; even my enemies (Matt. 5:44-48).

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7. **10** Patience:

A. Remember the account of the unforgiving servant? Matt. 18:21-35

- (1) He owed his master “ten thousand talents.” (v. 24)
- (2) But “he was unable to pay” (v. 25)
- (3) So “his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.” (v. 25)

B. ** Do you remember what this miserable man requested from his master? **Matt. 18:26:**

“The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’”

- (1) He owed the man “ten thousand talents”!
- (2) A “talent” was 75 lbs.; therefore, 10,000 talents would be 750,000 pounds.
- (3) 750,000 pounds of any metal or money would represent a debt even Bill Gates couldn’t pay!
- (4) There was no way in the world this man could even make a dent in that amount of debt.

C. ** Remember how the master responded? **Matt. 18:27:** “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.” Now that’s patience!

D. I need you to have patience with me, and there will be times when you will want me to have patience with you.

- (1) Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.
- (2) ** The Bible also uses other words to describe patience; like “forbearing” (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13) and “longsuffering” (Gal. 5:22; I Cor. 13:4).
- (3) Whether you call it “patience,” “forbearing,” or “longsuffering”; God is that way with me so I need to be that way with others.

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8. II Forgiveness:

- A. Live long enough and, more than likely, you will be trespassed against and you will trespass against another. We all need forgiveness!
- B. Recall Jesus’ model prayer?
 - (1) This concept is one of Jesus’s main points:
Matt. 6:12: “*And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*”
 - (2) ** When a good preacher repeats something in the same sermon it is usually because he wants to emphasize it so you don’t forget it.
 - (3) That’s exactly what Jesus did in the sermon on the mount:
Matt. 6:14-15: “*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”
- C. ** When Peter asked, “*Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, ‘I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven.’*” (Matt. 18:21-25)
 - (1) ** Think of how many times God has forgiven you? I can’t count the number of times!
 - (2) Now, how willing am I to forgive others?
 - (3) What if God was only as forgiving as I am? Where would I be?
- D. We need to remember Jesus’ example; one of His last words on the cross was, “*Father, forgive them...*” (Lk. 23:34)

III. CONCLUSION:

1. As Christians, we do what we do, act like we act; not for the praise of men, but for the praise and glory of God.
 - A. But I can guarantee you something.
 - B. If you treat people with:

(1) Reciprocity	(5) Kindness and courtesy
(2) Love	(6) Impartiality
(3) Honor	(7) Patience
(4) Compassion	(8) Forgiveness
 - C. Most will respond in a positive way (explain).
2. But even if people don’t respond positively; we need to still treat them this way.
 - A. It follows the example Jesus set.

B. It identifies us as a child of God.

Matt. 5:13-16: *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

3. Invitation

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