



As a church, we've spent the last couple of weeks discussing issues of gender, and what it means to be created male and female, as well as what it means to be made in God's image. Let's dive into some scriptures this week that model how we, as Christians, are called to treat those around us that may not share those same viewpoints, and how we can love others like Jesus does.

Read: Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

What does Jesus tell us are the 1st and 2nd greatest commands believers are to follow?

In loving others as Jesus calls us to, what attributes should be present in our treatment of those around us, according to the passage in 1 Corinthians?

How does Paul describe us when we have correct theology, loads of spiritual gifts, practice sacrificial giving, and have a powerful faith, but don't love people?

Read: Matthew 7:1-5

Do you think refraining from judgment equates to acceptance or approval of any lifestyle? Why or why not?

Why do you think we so easily ignore our sin to point out or judge the sin in someone else?

What makes the sin of others seem worse, or larger, than our own?

What plank of sin might you be carrying in your own eye, that obscures your spiritual vision?

Does the scrutiny you currently use to evaluate others match how you hope God would evaluate you?

What attributes of love from 1 Corinthians 13 do you see playing out in Matthew 7?

Take it Deeper:

What would it look like to deeply imagine yourself in the position of someone else in order to first understand them and what they might be feeling or experiencing, when you find yourself tempted to judge? Would it make you uncomfortable to truly imagine yourself in the skin of someone struggling with something like their gender or sexuality? Why?

If you are able to practice this kind of compassion, how might your subsequent judgment or evaluation of a person be different?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the example He set for us to show us what love truly looks like. May we live with both grace and truth as we follow His example, full of compassion and mercy. Create in us a heart that looks for the good in others, for your image that You created each person to contain, in all our humanity. May we always seek your face, and point others to you by the way we love. Amen.

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