

## Confrontation vs. Condemnation

### When to confront sin.

7/16/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-6, John 8:1-11, 1 Corinthians 5:12, Galatians 6:1

#### Introduction

- Last week we spoke about Whose Voice Are You Listening To?
- We highlighted how we should be care who we listen to when we seek wise counsel and advice.
- This morning I want us to look at Confrontation vs. Condemnation: When to confront sin.
- We are living in a sinful world, but what is our responsibility as Christians?
- This morning I want us to look at what the Bible says regarding whether or not it is appropriate to confront sin, and the circumstances surrounding such a confrontation.
- First I want us to look at some popular Bible verses that people partially quote when speaking about this:

“Judge not lest you be judged.”	<b>Matthew 7:1-6</b> , “ <sup>1</sup> <b>Do not judge, or you too will be judged.</b> <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup> Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.
“Those without sin cast the first stone.”	<b>John 8:1-11</b> , “ <sup>1</sup> But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, " <b>If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.</b> " <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

- If you simply use these two partial quotes you can:
  1. Sound authoritative because it sounds like Scripture.
  2. Make a pretty good case that it is not a Christian's responsibility to confront sin and it is inappropriate.
- However, in the context of the whole passage, is that what Jesus is teaching in either verse?
- In **Matthew 7:1-6**, Jesus is merely cautioning the people about “judging” others with a different measuring rod that you use for yourself. He is saying when shouldn't judge unfairly and hypocritically.
- In **John 8:1-11**, Jesus isn't speaking about “judging” in the sense of merely confronting sin, He is speaking about **condemnation**. This is the sentencing part of judging someone when the punishment is given.
- These men were ready to condemn the woman and that is the context by which Jesus said v. 7.
- **Vv.10-11**, show that this interpretation is correct because Jesus himself speaks of “condemnation.”

- In light of the verses we just read, I would like us to now look at these two verses:

### **1 Corinthians 5:12**

“<sup>12</sup>What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?”

### **Galatians 6:1**

“<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

- What do you make of what Paul says in **1 Corinthians 5:12**?
- If you read the entire chapter, you will see that Paul is teaching the church how to deal with immorality within the church. The very next verse says, “<sup>13</sup>God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."”
- What about Galatians 6:1, what is Paul teaching here?
- How can someone that is “spiritual” “restore” a Christian brother or sister without addressing the issue?
- There is a lot we can learn from what Paul was teaching in this verse of Scripture, it gives the roadmap for how we should confront sin.
- I think if you drown out all of the noise of people’s opinions in the world today and spend time allowing the actual Bible to shape your thoughts and actions, you will see things in a whole new light.
- If you take the teachings of the Bible as a whole, it is plain to see that Christians do in fact have a responsibility to confront sin.
- What we cannot do, it condemn anyone. There is a big difference in Confronting and Condemning.
- However, that leaves many questions unanswered:
  1. Should everyone go around confronting sin?
  2. Should you confront every sin, every time?
  3. How should you go about confronting sin in someone else’s life?
- Let’s take these one at a time:
  1. No, everyone should not go around confronting sin. As Galatians 6:1 says, “you who are spiritual...”
  2. Again, the answer is no. Confronting sin not only takes someone that is spiritual, but someone that has spiritual discernment. You must listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and be able to discern whether God is leading you to say something or not. It is all a matter of God’s will, not our will. As 1 Corinthians 5:12 tells us, we are primarily responsible for helping our Christian brothers and sisters within the church.
  3. Again, Galatians 6:1 gives us the model by saying “restore” the person “gently”. Also Matthew 7:1-6 teaches us that we should ensure that we have properly dealt with sin in our own lives. We must approach the person “speck to speck” not “plank to speck.” Again, discernment and guidance from the Holy Spirit is needed.
- In closing, confronting sin is a delicate task in our world today, but nonetheless it is essential we do it.
- How can I help someone get back on the right path, if I cannot address where they made the wrong turn?
- If people do not know where they are making the mistakes, will they not just continue to make them?
- We must be careful in how we minister to people today and unfortunately folks within the church have not done a good job confronting sin in the past nor the present, but that doesn’t mean we still shouldn’t do it.
- Confrontation: Yes, when led by the Spirit to do so. Condemnation: Absolutely not, that’s God’s job.

**Wednesday Night Bible Study:**

Who’s Who in the Bible? Ruth