

Youth Sunday School – Treating Others Considerately – 2/21/21

- Fighter verse
- Prayer
- Briefly discuss New City Catechism and associated verse
 - Question 32: What do justification and sanctification mean? Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us. (1 Peter 1:1-2)
 - Question 33: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else? No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior. (Galatians 2:16)
- Review Memory Verse List

Review - Gentleness is to treat others with a genuinely sensitive regard for their thoughts, feelings, and rights.

Treating others considerately

- Considerateness is to not insist on the letter of the law (strict justice) but to use reason. To be inconsiderate is to use rules or the law as a weapon against people rather than loving them in spite of whatever shortcoming there may be.
 - James 3:17 "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **open to reason**, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."
- Considerateness is one important aspect of gentleness. What do you think of when you think of treating someone with considerateness?
- Considerate Christians listen to reason, are fair-minded and humane.
 - They ask "what is the right thing to do in this situation?"
 - This is not a "what feels right" question which focuses on self. Considerateness focuses on others and asks "what is best for them?"
 - To be clear, these kinds of Christians, though considerate, still do not stray from the truth of the Bible.
- The pharisees were the opposite of considerateness in their absolute rigid adherence to man-made tradition, always asking "is it lawful" (according to the law AND their traditions) rather than "is it kind/reasonable".
- Read the following examples of the Pharisees, and discuss what considerateness does or does not look like and why "strict justice" was wrong in these cases.

Matthew 12:1-8

- The Law was intended to guide us in loving God and loving people. The Law/the Sabbath was never intended to forbid someone from participating in the basic or urgent necessities of life like food (as Jesus illustrated with King David). The Pharisees used the law as a weapon to wield rather than being merciful to someone who was hungry.

Matthew 12:9-14

- The Law/the Sabbath was never intended to prevent someone from loving their neighbor (that is what it actually is intended to aid!). The Pharisees held strictly to the law at the expense of loving people.

Matthew 19:3-9

- The Pharisees used the writings of Moses to justify leaving their wives whenever they wanted to (which is the exact opposite of what Moses and God desired, as Jesus explains).

Matthew 23:1-5, 23-28

- The Jewish leaders used the law to burden people and draw attention to themselves when the law was meant to draw our attention to God and show us our inability to meet God's demands.

Mark 7:1-13

- The Pharisees were so fixated on the law that they were adamant on washing their hands while their hearts were filthy (similar to Matthew 23).

- The Pharisees clung to their own traditions and used them to justify breaking God's commandment > here they are neglecting honoring their father and mother in order to perform a ritual they made up.

Luke 7:36-39

- The Pharisees used the law as a weapon to condemn people rather than love them where they are.

- What are some scenarios where it might be considerate for someone to not insist on the letter of the law but to be open to reason?

Questions to ask ourselves:

- How do others see us? Rigid/unyielding/inflexible or reasonable/humane?

- Prayer requests

For Next Time: - Read Chapter 15 of Practice of Godliness, "Gentleness".

- Keep memorizing the gentleness memory verses.

Gentleness Memory Verses

- Proverbs 15:4 "A gentle tongue is a tree of life"

- Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- Girls: 1 Peter 3:3-4 "[Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear]— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

- Guys: 2 Timothy 2:24-25 "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness."

- Bonus: 1 Peter 3:15 "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"