

Upside-Down Ethics, Part Two

Luke 6:37-42

- Kingdom Christians don't _____ and _____.
- Kingdom Christians practice _____.
 - Give someone the _____.
 - Give someone _____.
 - Give someone an _____.
 - Give someone _____.
 - Give someone the _____.
- Kingdom Christians increasingly reflect their _____.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. The text from Sunday continues Jesus' teaching of a new upside-down kingdom ethic. Matt's challenge to us Sunday was to hear what the culture around has to say about us, namely that they think Christians are judgmental and hypocritical. Do you think this assessment is true? Why or why not?
2. Sunday we learned that the normal response when we judge someone is to withdraw from them. Can you think of a time that you distanced yourself from someone because of differences? How could your actions have been perceived as being judgmental and condemning as opposed to what Jesus is teaching?
3. Instead of distancing ourselves from people who are different, especially those who do not claim to be followers of Christ, our text calls us to give ourselves to them relationally. Read back over the list of ways we were challenged to give ourselves relationally from the second point. What are some practical ways you can be relationally generous, particularly where there is conflict or brokenness?
4. We are not called to judge and condemn people who are followers of Christ but we are called to hold each other accountable to what it means to be a follower of Christ. In the same way, when we make value statements about other Christians from a distance and apart from relationship, those statements are often taken as judgmental. How can we as the body of Christ in community hold one another accountable while not being guilty of judging and condemning one another?
5. Lastly, Jesus' reputation was the exact opposite of someone who was judgmental or hypocritical. If Jesus is to be our ultimate teacher and example that we follow as the King of His Upside-Down kingdom, why does the world describe us in almost complete opposite terms from our King? What are some ways that you can begin to change how the culture feels about Christians and the Jesus we follow?