



The only remedy for hatred and division is a wave of divine grace and mercy

If you are unwilling to show mercy to others in their time of need – don't expect others to show mercy to you in your time of need

Matthew 5:7

Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Principle #1:

Mercy Does Not Have a Personal Agenda

John 8:2-3

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst

The Pharisees were not concerned about the sin or the sinner – they were only concerned with their desire to trap the Savior and bring recognition to themselves

John 8:5

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

- Religious people feel the insatiable need to be the center of attention
- Instead of the church being a spiritual healing place – it has become a spiritual whipping post for people who have made wrong choices in life
- Are we more concerned with the labels we place on certain people instead of the love of Christ for that person?

The most offensive sin described in this story is not the adultery... It is the arrogance of the Pharisees to use the sin of another person for personal gain

- The question we have to answer is this: are we going to focus so much on their hurts that we don't see their hearts?

Principle #2: Mercy Doesn't Listen to Empty Accusation

John 8:6-11

This they said, testing Him, that they might have [something] of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with [His] finger, as though He did not hear

Religious people bring accusation without any plan for reconciliation

Mercy sees beyond the accusation and sees an opportunity for redemption

John 8:7

He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Jesus didn't come to condemn people – He came to deliver people

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you

John 3:17-18

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.



Mercy doesn't listen to the accusation – mercy looks for reconciliation

Principle #3: Mercy Doesn't Advocate Sin

John 8:11

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Jesus didn't condemn – but neither did He compromise

- Jesus was compassionate without compromise

Jesus didn't hang out with Publicans and sinners – Publicans and sinners hung out with Jesus