

1. Some have interpreted this text to mean that we must never express a moral opinion about the behavior of others: Jesus is essentially saying, “To each his own,” or, to use the contemporary parlance, “You do you.” Is that what Jesus means? If not, what *does* He mean?
2. Do v. 3-5 mean that I must not confront the sin in another person’s life until I am totally free from sin myself?
3. There is much puzzlement about how v. 6 fits into the flow, which is probably why the editors of our translation (English Standard Version) made v. 6 a paragraph unto itself. What do you think? How does v. 6 fit into the flow of thought in v. 1-12?

[illegible]

In my class recently, I asked how many had participated in the ministry of loving confrontation, either confronting a brother/sister in sin or being confronted. Several raised their hands. I then asked how many of those situations ended well; none raised their hands. That is the typical result when I have asked those two questions. This is perhaps the main reason we hesitate to speak to a brother or sister who is drifting into sin. We know that it will probably go badly. Texts like this one only reinforce that anxiety, giving us license to neglect the ministry of loving confrontation.

- ...what kept that encounter from dissolving into angry recrimination, as it so often does?
- ...what did you contribute to that good outcome?

- ...what factors contributed to that bad outcome?
- ...what would you do differently if you could go back and do it again?

- Have you ever been in a situation in which you refrained from confronting an erring brother or sister because you felt it would have been futile?
- Have you ever gone forward with confrontation in such a situation and been pleased with the result?

[illegible]