

Have you ever wondered if something you've heard is in the Bible? Maybe the saying sounds close but not quite right. Maybe it uses familiar words but is clearly off the mark. We are addressing some of those sayings, where they came from and what believers should take away from them. Use your communication card if you have one you want us to check out!

Q3: Do Unto Others?

Did Jesus really say that? While the phrase does not appear exactly phrased the same way, the sentiment is definitely biblical.

From the Bible:

Read Matthew 7:12 - So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. And **Read Luke 6:31** - Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Some say that it is ingrained in our human nature to perform acts of kindness. Over time, the "random act of kindness" movement has exemplified this notion. However, in most cases, people tend to assist others only when: 1. They're friends or family. 2. It's convenient for them. 3. They're in a good mood, or 4. They anticipate something in return.

Contrary to this, the Bible emphasizes not merely practicing kindness when it suits our feelings. Instead, it encourages us to love others consistently, even extending that love to our enemies and those who mistreat us. If we limit our kindness to friends alone, we are no different from anyone else, as everyone tends to do the same (Matthew 5:47). Loving everyone, regardless of circumstances, is a more challenging but crucial task, one that requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Q2: To Thine Own Self Be True?

Did Jesus really say that? Not exactly. It's at least similar to some biblical concepts, but the motivation behind truth is critical! The saying, quoted directly, comes from Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*.

To The Book:

Read Galatians 1:10 – Paul asks if he is trying to win approval of men or God. Then he added that if he was trying to please people he would not be a servant of God.

Authenticity and truth are important ideas in the Bible. John wrote that if we deceive ourselves about our own desire towards self-sovereignty, then there is no truth within us (1 John 1:8). So should we be true to who we are, yes...and no! If we are following Jesus, then people pleasing and doing what others want shouldn't be our motivation. We should be motivated by our lives honoring God instead. However, if we are doing what we want apart from God or seeking the approval of others, then our motivations are potentially corrupt, and we should be very careful about being "true" to ourselves.

Family Night Big idea – Read Colossians 3:23

Everything we do should be done with honoring God in our thoughts and heart rather than just pleasing people.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Have you seen people do things in a group of friends that they would not do at home?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why do you think people put so much effort into being popular?"

Prayer "Lord, we want to be popular and be liked by people. Help us not make that so important that we forget that honoring you is the most important thing we can do. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church this Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Gravity: No Gravity Today

Today's Songs

The Lord's Prayer.....Matt Maher

King of Kings.....Hillsong

Miracle Power.....We the Kingdom

Women's Event

You can sign up in February to see Priscilla Shirer live in Athens for her "Going Beyond" Event. The date is August 24th. Total cost is \$170 and that includes ticket and hotel. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk to find out more information.

Father/ Daughter Dance

Dance is February 9th at 6pm at Pine Needle Plantation (2891 Ellis Rd., Register). Tickets are on sale now. Cost is \$30 per couple. Register at the Welcome Desk in the Lobby or online. Last week to register!

Look Up Lodge

Summer Camp for current 3rd-5th graders, May 28-31. Cost is \$249. Registration Online or KidsJAM. First 20 students to register and pay \$100 deposit, secures a spot. Register soon!

Mother/Son Basketball Game

Meet at GSU Hanner Fieldhouse on March 1st at 7pm. Registration is open online at www.gracestatesboro.com.