

CARING CORRECTLY

1 Thessalonians 5:14 NIV – And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

DESCRIPTION

Loving others as Jesus loves us includes understanding how to recognize what state they are in on their journey with Him. Jesus warned us not to judge by outward appearances but to judge with righteousness.

For example, perhaps what appears to be idleness is actually someone who is intently waiting upon the Lord. Maybe what looks like disruption is actually a disheartened person in need of encouragement. Possibly what seems to be faithless is actually one who is weak and in need of help.

Only the Lord knows each of our hearts and His desire is for us to love one another well. He is willing to share His insight with us so we can be and do for others what they need at the right time in their lives.

As such, putting Caring Correctly into practice is about seeking the Lord for His input about what another person is actually in need of so we can love them the way Jesus wants us to.

CONSIDERATIONS

Has there been a time when you felt misunderstood by others or that they cared for you incorrectly? How could they have Cared Correctly for you?

Has someone Cared Correctly for you but you did not appreciate or recognize it at first? How so? When did you recognize that they had Care Correctly for you?

Have you ever misunderstood or cared for someone incorrectly? How could you have handled the situation differently?

In what ways did Jesus Care Correctly? Did He give people what they demanded or what they needed? Who did He take His directions from?



PURPOSE:

To accurately discern the spiritual state of others so that we can care for them correctly.

To love others well by doing what is right for them rather than what they want.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Love for others.

Improved kindness for others on their journey with Jesus.

Increased discernment of phases of spiritual life.

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you sent Jesus to demonstrate how to care for people the way you want me to. Help me to learn from you about what others need before jumping to conclusions or making wrong judgments. Teach me how to love the way you do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PRACTICE

1. Ask the Lord to highlight someone to you that He would like you to Care Correctly for.
2. From *your perspective*, write down how you see their situation, behavior, attitude, etc.
 - What does it look like to you?
 - How are you inclined to handle the situation?
 - Are there feelings that come up for you when you think about this? Does it make you angry, sad, fearful, etc?
 - Does it remind you of incidents you've had with them in the past? With others? Is this the same or different?
3. Shift from your own perspective. Ask the Holy Spirit about this person and their situation.
 - Ask God to show you what is really going on with them.
 - Ask God to reveal the truth to you about the situation.
 - Ask God what they need from you at this time in their life.
4. Take note of the differences between your impressions from #2 and God's insights from #3.
 - How are they different? How are they similar?
 - What did God show you that you had not considered?
 - Was there any way that your emotions or past experiences were hindering your perspective of the situation? How so?
5. Ask God how He wants you to do to Care Correctly for this person. With His help, do what He tells you.

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Romans 14:1

1 Thessalonians 2:11

Titus 3:10

1 Corinthians 13:4

2 Thessalonians 3:15

1 Corinthians 5:11

Hebrews 10:24

Ephesians 4:29

John 7:24