

**Welcome!
Love Your
Neighbour!**



**What do you think
people's first
impression of you is?**



**Do you think how
people view you, affects
how they treat you?**





How we **view
others affects how
we **treat** them.**



How do you view others in the church?

Family, Loved ones, brothers and sisters and Christ, prayer warriors.

But actually, the way we view others in church, often comes with



Family, comes with expectations.



expectations

to understand

to not sin

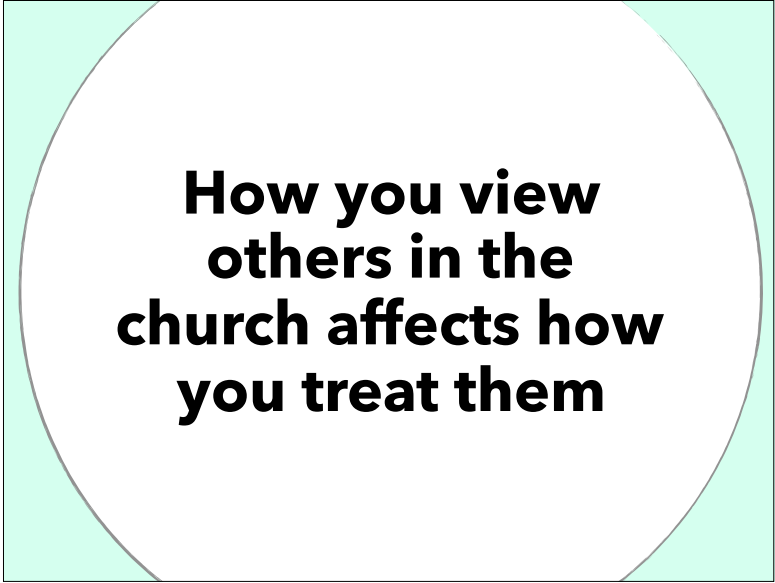
to be compassionate

to come to church

to serve one another

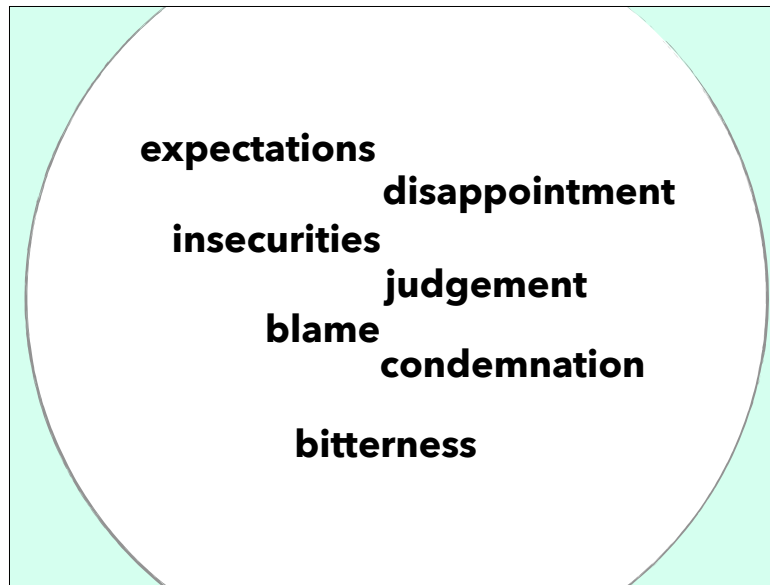
to be good

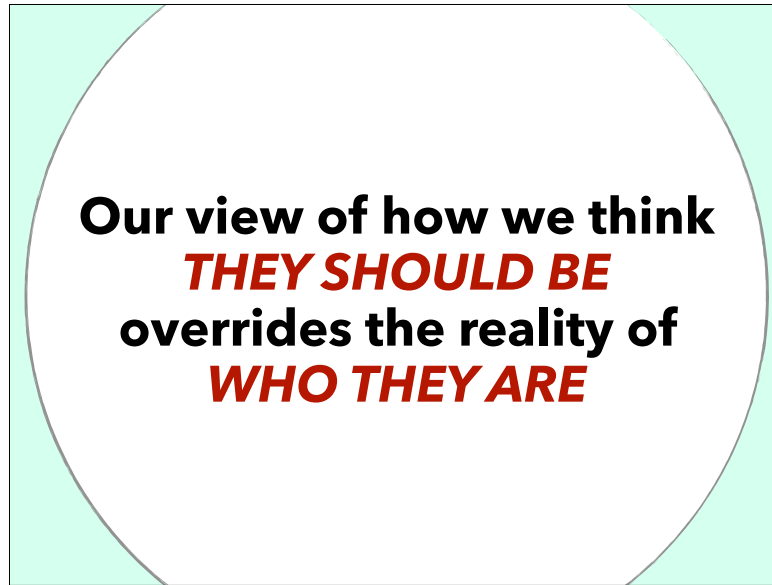
to believe how you believe



**How you view
others in the
church affects how
you treat them**

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**That impression
affects how we
treat them**

Instead we treat them with judgement, or with condescension.

Side eye.

Gossip.

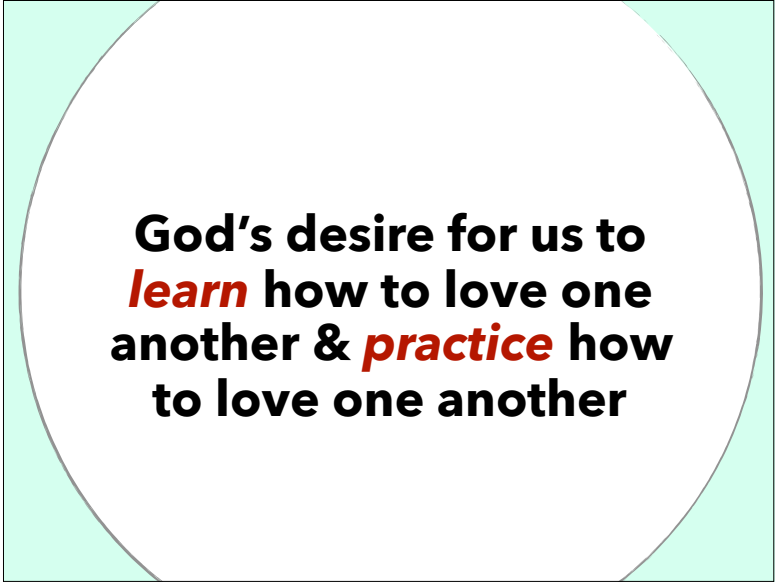
Blame.

Judgement.

Shunning them.

Avoiding them.

Passive aggressive comments.



**God's desire for us to
learn how to love one
another & *practice* how
to love one another**

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In the early church, one of the first challenges the church had, was to understand what it meant to love those who were different than them. They welcomed new believers, but they struggled to know how to practically love someone who was so different.

Jews and Gentiles clashed. Now it's funny, because when the bible talks about it, it just says Jews – Jewish culture, background, upbringing, and family – and then the Gentiles. And the Gentiles were – well, everyone else. But within that Gentile group there were rich, poor, roman citizens, slaves – we're talking a more broad group. And amongst each of those groups there were those who were well educated, and those who were not. Those who could read, and those who could not. Those who were superstitious and those who were not.

WELCOME THEM

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

Romans 14:1

14 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgement on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgement on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

SURRENDER THEM

**Why do you pass judgement on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God; for it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."
So then each of us will give an account of himself to God**

Romans 14:10-12

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why do you pass judgement on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God; 11 for it is written,

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and every tongue shall confess[b] to God."

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

BLESS THEM

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Romans 14:17-19

Stumbling block.

Don't make it more difficult for them to love and worship God. Don't create more obstacles for them. 13 Therefore let us not pass judgement on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Now, this is not a matter, of getting drunk, or wasted. Or eating unhealthily. This was about worship. About corporate. About what it meant to love God. And there were copious food laws, and they were debating what "laws" made you a Christian, and what "laws" discounted you.

And Paul was saying, hey, if someone

Bless them – by not fighting them, or making a point, or being stubborn about it – pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Pursue the best way to bless them, make peace, and mutually build one another up.

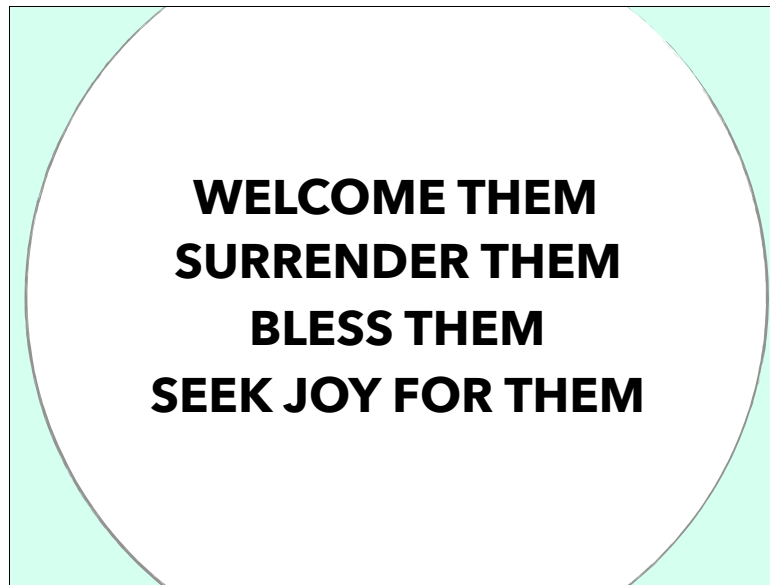
SEEK JOY FOR THEM

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."

Romans 15:1-3

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Romans 15:1-3

It's this responsibility to not just seek to please our selves. Or to satisfy ourselves. WE should do this because it would make ourselves happy. WE should do this.



How can I welcome them in Christ today?
How can I surrender them to Christ today?
How can I bless them in Christ today?
What joy can I bring them today?