

contagious

The word "contagious" is rendered in a bold, 3D, red font with a slight shadow, centered horizontally. The background is a dark blue-grey gradient with a dense field of blurred, white, 3D letters scattered throughout, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Part 15

Contagious

Christlike Acceptance

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

Matthew 9:10

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.

Matthew 9:11

But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?”

Matthew 9:12

When Jesus heard this, he said,
“Healthy people don’t need a
doctor—sick people do.”

Matthew 9:13a

Then he added, “Now go and learn
the meaning of this Scripture:
‘I want you to show mercy,
not offer sacrifices.’”

Matthew 9:13b

For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

**Contagious
Christlike Acceptance**

Principle #1

Contagious Christlike acceptance begins with acknowledging the fact that we were all lost at some point, that we are all still a work in progress, and that we are all still sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a trustworthy saying,
and everyone should accept it:
“Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners”—and I am the
worst of them all.

Principle #1

Contagious Christlike acceptance begins with acknowledging the fact that we were all lost at some point, that we are all still a work in progress, and that we are all still sinners.

Principle #2

Christlike acceptance is about choosing to see the image of God in His children versus stigmatizing them according to their sins.

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Principle #2

Christlike acceptance is about choosing to see the image of God in His children versus stigmatizing them according to their sins.

Principle #3

Christlike acceptance is about meeting people where they are.

1 Corinthians 5:9

When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.

1 Corinthians 5:10

But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that.

Principle #3

Christlike acceptance is about meeting people where they are.

Principle #4

Christlike acceptance creates a solid foundation for connection and conversation, so people can get the help they need.

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Principle #5

**Christlike acceptance is about
showing mercy when
we don't want to.**

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Principle #5

**Christlike acceptance is about
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Principle #6

We must first learn to accept one another and to genuinely connect with one another before we ever try to correct one another.

Romans 15:7

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you, so that God will be given glory.

Principle #6

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**Before You Try to
Correct Someone Else,
Ask Yourself:**

Ask Yourself

- **Would this person say we have an intimate relationship and a genuine connection?**
- **Have I been asked for my opinion or invited into an advisory role on this particular subject?**

Ask Yourself

- **Have I accepted that this person belongs to God and not to me?**
- **Have I accepted the fact that I do not have any power to change people?**

Ask Yourself

- **How long have I been in prayer asking God to correct this person Himself?**
- **Has God specifically told me that it is my responsibility to correct this person?**

Ask Yourself

- **Has my patience and long-suffering for this person run out? How about God's?**
- **Has the spirit of self-righteousness and hypocrisy been removed from my own heart?**

Ask Yourself

- **How would Christ speak truth in love to this person?**
- **What has the Holy Spirit specifically asked me to say to this person?**

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Christlike Acceptance**

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