

Sermon Handout: Our Father, Week 8

Sunday, July 14, 2024
Central Church of Christ

The Radical Middle By Paul Webster

Main Points:

1. We often feel the pressure to be perfect in various aspects of life, leading to harsh self-judgment and judgment of others.
2. Jesus offers a different standard in the Sermon on the Mount, calling us to live in the 'radical middle' where grace and truth meet.
3. Jesus' disciples humbly balance discernment of sin with the forgiveness and wisdom God has given them.
 - We must address our own sins before helping others with theirs.
4. Jesus' disciples pray for wisdom from God in how to treat others as they have been treated by Him.
 - Use discernment to help others, but avoid harsh judgment and condemnation.
 - God provides good things to His children, especially wisdom when we seek Him.

Remember: Let's strive to embody the radical middle—balancing discernment with compassion, and judgment with mercy. Treat others as you would want to be treated, reflecting the love and grace of Christ.

Bottom Line: God's children see others with God's eyes and love with His heart.

Application:

- Avoid judging others harshly or condemning them.
- Seek God's wisdom to know how to relate with others as He would.
- It's not our job to condemn; that's God's role. Establish healthy boundaries to address issues without harsh judgment.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live in the 'radical middle' where grace and truth meet?
2. How can we avoid harshly judging others and instead show them grace and mercy?
3. Why is it important to address our own sins before helping others with theirs?
4. How can we seek God's wisdom in our daily lives?
5. What are some practical ways we can live out the Golden Rule in our family, school, or workplace?

Scripture References: Matthew 7:1-12; Romans 11:33; Galatians 6:1; Colossians 1:28

Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7 calls us to a radical way of living that reflects the heart of our Heavenly Father. We are to resist the urge to judge and condemn, and instead, seek God's wisdom in prayer to treat others with the same grace and mercy that He has shown us.

Join us next Sunday for the conclusion of the "Our Father" series and our study through the Sermon on the Mount!