

Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matt 9:10-13)



1. Jesus was open about His judgment of their behavior
2. You can sit down with people without emulating or endorsing their lifestyles
3. A disagreement with someone's lifestyle is not the same as a hatred of them
4. Engaging in positive disagreement with people is necessary work

1. Jesus was open about His judgment of their behavior

For I did not
come to call
the
righteous,
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(Matt 9:13)

And they came and said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For You are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God." (Mk 12:14)

Most people will respect you for being a straight shooter – even if they don't like what you are saying.



Most men will proclaim
every one his own kindness;
but a faithful man who can
find? (Prov 20:6)

Faithful are the wounds of a
friend; but the kisses of an
enemy are profuse. (Prov 27:6)

2. You can sit down with people without emulating or endorsing their lifestyles

Why does
your
Teacher eat
with tax
collectors
and
sinners?
(Matt 9:11)

...not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. (1 Cor 5:10)



If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all...
To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom 12:18-21)

3. A disagreement with someone's lifestyle is not the same as a hatred of them

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
(Matt 9:12)

PHYSICIANS HATE SICKNESS
PHYSICIANS LOVE SICK PEOPLE



CHRISTIANS HATE SIN
CHRISTIANS LOVE SINFUL PEOPLE

It is possible to evaluate the merits of someone's ACTIONS without having animosity toward their SOUL.

4. Engaging in positive disagreement with people is necessary work

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.
(Matt 9:13)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. (1 Tim 1:15)



No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (Lk 11:33)