

Judge not, lest you be judged. (Matt. 7:1)

When we negatively judge others and withhold our compassion from people who commit terrible sins, we fail to understand the reasons why people think and behave as they do. When we judge sinners as underserving of our love, we fail to understand the true meaning and nature of love.

No two human brains think exactly alike. We have all been designed differently. Some brains function quite well, and some not so well. We were raised in different economic, religious and cultural environments. Some of those environments are positive and nurturing, while others are caustic and debilitating.

If I make worse life decisions than you, it is not totally my fault. I may have made those bad decisions because God made me less intelligent than you or placed me into a worse environment than yours during my formative years. Ironically, your sense of superiority might in the eyes of God be more sinful than what you see in me.

Both nature and nurture have played a significant role in determining who I have become today. They are the reason I am different from you. If you want someone to blame for the evil that people do in this world, then the blame rests primarily with God. We didn't make ourselves.

God is directly and indirectly the cause of who we have become. Fortunately, God is love, and created each of us with a loving purpose in mind. We are all objects of God's unconditional love, regardless of the quality of our brains and the life circumstances into which we were born. The truth is that each of us is flawed by design. We were all created with imperfect brains. We have all been subjected to challenging life circumstances. We were all predestined to fall into various types of sin.

The best way to learn and grow into better human beings is to make mistakes and learn from them. The single most important life lesson we can learn is how to love as God loves. In order to do this we must first find ourselves in need of God's love and forgiveness. We must first become sinners. Then God forgives us and leads us back into the fold. The result is that we have been made the better for the experience. We now know what it is like to have been lost and then found. We are now able to fully empathize with those who in varying degrees have not yet been found.

We are now better equipped to love people in need and reach out to help them without judgment.

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