

Point Taken



We have all been on either the giving or receiving side of today's verse. The receiving side is often very painful and may take a LOT of time to work through. You know what I am talking about- another believer does something to you that shakes your faith to the very core while they go on their merry way...

However, today I feel led to speak about the "giving" side of this. The giving side why? Because that's a place we really don't want to go!

"Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is" (Romans 14:13, MSG).

I think we can all say, this is a pretty strong verse regardless of which version you read it in and the implications of being on the "giving side" are anything but good! Here's what you need to be concerned about: Don't make life harder on someone else than it already is.

I'd say that's pretty cut and dry, don't you? Our actions really can hurt someone else to the point of causing them doubt or lose their faith! Ouch...Now that's scary! Over the years, I have seen so many people fall away from God because of something someone did to them.

Gina- where are you going with this? This doesn't make me feel good at all. After all, I only did what I thought was best....(Long, dramatic pause here because inside you know the decision was really all about what's best....for me).....

Friends, I don't want to make you feel bad. This is all about accountability. I want to grow more and more like Him. You want to grow to be more like Him. And we can't if we disregard the truth concerning our actions.

When I shared today's message with Rachael, this was her response: *"people tend to look the other way like it wasn't intended for them but someone else- instead of saying could that be me? Always*

finger pointing and never thumb pointing... I know it's Christmas but the birth of Christ is so much more than a season."

Like you, I want to be more like Him, and if I do things or make decisions that are only best for me by hurting others, can I really accomplish that? Look at this verse a few more times since each time it brings new light upon the verse:

- MSG Bible- "Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is"
- NET Bible: "Therefore we must not pass judgment on one another, but rather determine never to place an obstacle or a trap before a brother or sister"
- GOD'S WORD: "So let's stop criticizing each other. Instead, you should decide never to do anything that would make other Christians have doubts or lose their faith."
- King James 2000 Bible: "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."
- New American Standard Bible: "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way."

Are you getting the point of this verse? It's your choice to decide which tree to eat from. God uses each of us to grow each other, to learn to trust Him, and to learn faith, not tear each other down with selfish decisions. Make choices today that benefit others, not yourself.

Still love me?

Dr. Gina Cobb

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8DiZhNVu1I>