

Volume 5, Day 3: Casting Condemnation (Blame)

Human nature is consistently self indulgent, self promoting and controlling. When others don't act in a manner that I consider to be appropriate, I will likely resort to all kinds of manipulation and coercion in order to get them to behave how I believe they should. The problem with this **god complex** is that even though I wouldn't claim to be God, I act as if I am! I've observed this in every human I have ever met. And it was confirmed in large measure while substitute teaching for three years and encountering over 5000 students, all of whom acted in this **self appointed god** manner. And I watched this create division and relational carnage everywhere I taught.

I encouraged the students to employ the golden rule in their lives as it could bring them more peace and harmony with others. But thanks to one 8th grade class, I was able to see a solution to a lot of the problems that I observed in the public school system. The golden rule is, "treat others the way you want to be treated." But most of us have never really thought clearly how it is that we want to be treated. In a single word we are all looking for is **acceptance**. Mostly we get rejection because we don't measure up to someone or everyone else's demands of us.

In the scene in Les Miserables where the Bishop actually lied to protect the criminal from re-incarceration we see the redemption of a criminal. Had the Bishop approached the criminal in the same manner as his wife, the rest of that man's life would have been wasted. In the end, the redemption was evident in the life redeemed by the Man of God. Jesus' method was, and still is, complete acceptance of any and all people, even in their most criminal behaviors. Jesus' acceptance of sinners actually incited the religious leaders of His church to anger great enough to crucify Him.

Accepting a person despite their wrongful behavior, does not condone their behavior. Condemnation belongs to God alone! Find your own literary or other creative work which will let you relate and apply this grace to others and change both yours and their life.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan