

SITUATION NOT ALWAYS IDEAL

WE ARE NEVER TOLD ALL SITUATIONS WOULD BE IDEAL

Satan asks a question we all need to ask ourselves - Job 1:8-11 - 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "**DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?**" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

We are all in the path of time and chance - Eccl 9:11-12 - 11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to THEM ALL. 12 Moreover, no man knows when HIS HOUR will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by EVIL TIMES that fall UNEXPECTEDLY upon them.

The world consists of two types of people, Believers and Unbelievers - 2 Cor 5:16-19 - 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly POINT OF VIEW. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

God warned us and has given us instruction on how to deal with conflicting situations - Rom 14:1-23- **Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on DISPUTABLE MATTERS.** 2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" 12 **SO THEN, EACH OF US WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD.** 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. 14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But **if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.** 15 If your brother is distressed because of WHAT YOU EAT, you are no longer acting in love. Do not BY YOUR EATING destroy your brother for whom Christ died. 16 Do not allow what **YOU CONSIDER GOOD** to be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. 19 Let us therefore **MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO WHAT LEADS TO PEACE AND TO MUTUAL EDIFICATION.** 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better NOT TO eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

When we judge based on our ideal situation we condemn ourselves - Rom 2:1-4 - You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

A good example of "situations" is Marriage, which is from God therefore GOD IS THE ONE WHO SETS THE STANDARDS, not us - Matt 19:4-12 -4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?' 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." 10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." 11 Jesus replied, "**NOT EVERYONE CAN ACCEPT THIS WORD, BUT ONLY THOSE TO WHOM IT HAS BEEN GIVEN.**" 12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who CAN accept this should accept it."

WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO DISTORT REALITY

By living "entitled" instead of living "responsible" - 1 Cor 8:9-13 - 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 **SO THIS WEAK BROTHER, FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED, IS DESTROYED BY YOUR KNOWLEDGE.** 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, YOU SIN AGAINST CHRIST. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

We allowed our desires to distort the perception of an Ideal situation - James 4:1-3 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from YOUR DESIRES THAT BATTLE WITHIN YOU? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get **ON YOUR PLEASURES.**

When we judge we don't base it on God but on our own ideal perception and have received terrible outcomes - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, OR you too will be judged. 2 For in the SAME WAY you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Not checking ourselves through God before we see to help others - Matt 7:3-5 - 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

We allow the world to mold our decision making and we then lead by a bad example - Gal 2:11-14 - 11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. 12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him IN HIS HYPOCRISY, so that **BY THEIR HYPOCRISY EVEN BARNABAS WAS LED ASTRAY.** 14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

We allow tradition and Habit to trump God's way- Matt 15:3-9 - 3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?" 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

We even make church to fit us not what God commands - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, **TO SUIT THEIR OWN DESIRES,** they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

WHAT TO DO TO LIVE GODLY IN ANY SITUATION

DEALING WITH PEOPLE IN A GODLY WAY

We must see ourselves as God says, not as we perceive - Rom 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, IN ACCORDANCE WITH the measure of faith God has given you.

We are to make it our duty to adjust ourselves for others through Christ in order to minister effectively - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to EVERYONE, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. **I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN** so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this **FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL,** that I may share in its blessings.

We must focus on the one thing all Christians have in common, that's Jesus - 1 Cor 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you AGREE WITH ONE another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be **PERFECTLY UNITED** in mind and thought.

We are to be driven by HIS love & HIS compassion and not by "us" - Phil 2:1-4 - If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

We must adjust how we are with others no matter the circumstances - 1 Peter 3:8-9 - 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love AS brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, BUT WITH BLESSING, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Like Christ we must never feel entitled but we must be humbled - Phil 2:5-8 - 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but **MADE HIMSELF NOTHING,** taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Even if you are right, you are never to pass judgment on your neighbor - James 4:11-12 -11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — **WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR?**

It is our responsibility to look out for those less fortunate even though it may seem you will benefit more from those that have more - James 2:1-6 - My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 **BUT YOU HAVE INSULTED THE POOR.** Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

Before you react to what someone has done to you please remember what God has done for you -Matt 18:23-35 - 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 **THE SERVANT'S MASTER TOOK PITY ON HIM, CANCELED THE DEBT AND LET HIM GO.** 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 "**BUT HE REFUSED.** Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "**THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU UNLESS YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART."**

We are responsible for having a relationship with other Christians even when it's not ideal -Rom 15:1-8 **WE WHO ARE STRONG OUGHT TO BEAR WITH THE FAILINGS OF THE WEAK AND NOT TO PLEASE OURSELVES.** 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 **Accept one another, then, just AS CHRIST ACCEPTED YOU,** in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs

We as Christians should deal with all situations between Christians- 1 Cor 6:1-6 - If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, **appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!** 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another — **AND THIS IN FRONT OF UNBELIEVERS!**

We must completely love through God and separate all evil from good - Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. NASB

DEALING WITH SITUATIONS IN A GODLY WAY

Desire what God's Word has to say not what you would like it to say - 1 Peter 2:1-2 - Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave PURE spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Like Jesus, Judge EVERYTHING through God –

John 8:15-16 - 15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because **I AM NOT ALONE. I STAND WITH THE FATHER**, who sent me.

John 5:30 **BY MYSELF I CAN DO NOTHING**; I judge ONLY as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

We must not base how we judge ourselves and anything else other than on God - 1 Cor 4:3-5 - 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 **My CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR**, but that **DOES NOT MAKE ME INNOCENT. IT IS THE LORD WHO JUDGES ME**. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Be Careful; because what you SEE as BAD situations may really be situations that are BLESSED

Painful situation

Heb 12:7 **ENDURE HARDSHIP** as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Trying situations - James 1:2-4 - 2 **CONSIDER IT PURE JOY**, my brothers, WHENEVER you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith DEVELOPS perseverance. 4 **PERSEVERANCE MUST FINISH ITS WORK** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Situations that cause suffering - Rom 5:3-5 - 3 Not only so, but we also **REJOICE IN OUR SUFFERINGS**, because we know that suffering PRODUCES perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Situations to save me from depending on me - 2 Cor 1:8-9 - 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might **NOT RELY ON OURSELVES BUT ON GOD**, who raises the dead.

Let's remove all excuses and road blocks and run our specific race – Heb 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

The answer to how we accomplish this - Heb 12:2 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our desires must not hinder our ministry. It's not about us, it's to glorify God - 1 Cor 10:27-11:1 - 27 If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. 28 But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake— 29 the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? 30 If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? 31 So **WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRINK OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**. 32 **DO NOT CAUSE ANYONE TO STUMBLE**, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For **I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved**. 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Grow in being content - Phil 4:11-13 - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Do not allow situations to dictate your life, let your life be dictated by your relationship with God -1 Cor 7:17-24 -17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

Live as Christians being Spiritually focused and ALL situations will be ideal - Rom 8:28 And **we know** that **IN ALL THINGS God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose**.

Situation Not Always Ideal (Questions)

Name: _____

1. What exactly are “disputable matters”? –
2. What is the difference between “judging” and “Passing judgement”?
3. There is only one ideal standard for marriage, what exactly is that?
4. If I don’t see anything wrong with something I do it. What is the matter with that?
5. Give an example of removing the plank from your eye to see clearly to remove the speck from your brothers eye.
6. What are we doing today to create “itching ear” churches?
7. I should see myself according to my Faith. Could there be anything wrong with that statement?
8. What needs to be the main element for all Christians to have the same viewpoint and purpose?
9. What should be the main bases for why we forgive others?
10. What exactly did JESUS do to avoid dealing with things based on how he seen it?
11. Is it always good to pray to get out of an undesirable situation? Explain.

12. Jesus is the "Author" and "Perfecter" of our faith. What does that mean?

13. Doing everything for one purpose will keep us from living for the ideal situation. What is that purpose?