

Dangers of enabling

Grace- giving another chance with help to do right (Hold accountable, give direction, remind of consequence)

Enabling – making it comfortable to continue in wrong. (Make excuses; ignore the problem, removes consequence.)

The Old Testament Law displays who it is that is in the most danger of being enabled - Ex 21:28-29 - 28 "If a bull gores a man or a woman to death, the bull must be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten. But the owner of the bull will not be held responsible. 29 If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull must be stoned and the owner also must be put to death.

- Bad Habits/patterns
- Consistently irresponsible

It is required for us to Help those in need but we must not enable! - Gal 6:2-5 -2 **Carry each other's burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for **each one should carry his own load**.

A person will be enabled depending on what type of sorrow they have - 2 Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

God gave instruction to the church on how to assist Widows without enabling them

1 Tim 5:3-6 - 3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

1 Tim 5:9-13 - 9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. 11 As for **younger widows, do not put them on such a list**. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

What is enabling and its effects?

God made it clear that Christians are not to enable - 2 Thess 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

God has given clear instruction on how we are to deal with purposely wayward Christians - 1 Cor 5:9-11 - 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. **With such a man do not even eat**.

Even when we don't agree with a false teacher, our relationship with him could display agreement which enables them - 2 John 7-11 - 7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 **Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God**; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

Enabling & spoiling our children is a death sentence - Prov 23:13-14 - 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

When those we love have a constant problem or a bad habit the worst thing, we could do is enable them by letting it go unacknowledged - Prov 27:5-6 - 5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

All forms of wrong partnerships are a dangerous forms of enabling - 2 Cor 6:14-15 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

Agape Love is what's needed in order not to enable

What we say to others can enable if we are not careful - Eph 4:29 Do not LET any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Tough love, not enabling our brothers, is what's needed to point them in the right direction - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. **DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH HIM, in order that he may feel ashamed**. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

The clear answer on how to not enable but to Love - Matt 22:37-40 - 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."