

## FORGIVENESS

### Not Being Judgmental

Luke 6:37 "Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. Stop criticizing others, or it will all come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven.

#### What Does It Mean To Be Judgmental?

Romans 14:8 While we live, we live to please the Lord. And when we die, we go to be with the Lord. So in life and in death, we belong to the Lord.

9 Christ died and rose again for this very purpose, so that he might be Lord of those who are alive and of those who have died.

10 So why do you condemn another Christian? Why do you look down on another Christian? Remember, each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God.

11 For the Scriptures say, " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow to me and every tongue will confess allegiance to God.' "

12 Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God.

13 So don't condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian's path.

#### Is It Right To Judge - \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Opinions

\_\_\_\_\_ Convictions

\_\_\_\_\_ Differences

James 4:11 Don't speak evil against each other, my dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize each other and condemn each other, then you are criticizing and condemning God's law. But you are not a judge who can decide whether the law is right or wrong. Your job is to obey it.

12 God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to condemn your neighbor?

Romans 14:1 Accept Christians who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

3 Those who think it is all right to eat anything must not look down on those who won't. And those who won't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.

4 Who are you to condemn God's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him tell them whether they are right or wrong. The Lord's power will help them do as they should.

Is It Right To Judge - \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Doctrine

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart.

16 You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You don't pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles.

17 A healthy tree produces good fruit, and an unhealthy tree produces bad fruit.

18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.

19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.

20 Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.

21 "Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.

22 On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'

23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.'

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

2 This is the way to find out if they have the Spirit of God: If a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ became a human being, that person has the Spirit of God.

3 If a prophet does not acknowledge Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist. You have heard that he is going to come into the world, and he is already here.

Luke 6:46 "So why do you call me 'Lord,' when you won't obey me?"

\_\_\_\_\_ Or Improper Behavior

1 Corinthians 5:1 I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you, something so evil that even the pagans don't do it. I am told that you have a man in your church who is living in sin with his father's wife.

2 And you are so proud of yourselves! Why aren't you mourning in sorrow and shame? And why haven't you removed this man from your fellowship?

3 Even though I am not there with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. Concerning the one who has done this, I have already passed judgment

4 in the name of the Lord Jesus. You are to call a meeting of the church, and I will be there in spirit, and the power of the Lord Jesus will be with you as you meet.

5 Then you must cast this man out of the church and into Satan's hands, so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved when the Lord returns.

6 How terrible that you should boast about your spirituality, and yet you let this sort of thing go on. Don't you realize that if even one person is allowed to go on sinning, soon all will be affected?

7 Remove this wicked person from among you so that you can stay pure. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

What Questions Should I Ask Myself Before I Judge?

Is It My \_\_\_\_\_?

1 Corinthians 5:12 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your job to judge those inside the church who are sinning in these ways.

13 God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."

Do I Have The Right \_\_\_\_\_?

James 2:12 So whenever you speak, or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law of love, the law that set you free.

13 For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you.

Am I Willing To Be A Part Of \_\_\_\_\_?

2 Corinthians 2:5 I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt your entire church more than he hurt me.

6 He was punished enough when most of you were united in your judgment against him.

7 Now it is time to forgive him and comfort him. Otherwise he may become so discouraged that he won't be able to recover.

8 Now show him that you still love him.

9 I wrote to you as I did to find out how far you would go in obeying me.

10 When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive him (for whatever is to be forgiven), I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit,

11 so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are very familiar with his evil schemes.

Galatians 6:1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

2 Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

3 If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself. You are really a nobody.

4 Be sure to do what you should, for then you will enjoy the personal satisfaction of having done your work well, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

Have I Considered My \_\_\_\_\_?

Matthew 7:1 "Stop judging others, and you will not be judged.

2 For others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged.

3 And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?

4 How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?

5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

6 "Don't give what is holy to unholy people. Don't give pearls to swine! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

## What Is My Response?

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1 Corinthians 5:9 When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.

10 But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or who are greedy or are swindlers or idol worshipers. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that.

11 What I meant was that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a Christian yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or a drunkard, or a swindler. Don't even eat with such people.

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1 Peter 2:23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

### 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

3 What about me? Have I been faithful?

Well, it matters very little what you or anyone else thinks.

I don't even trust my own judgment on this point.

4 My conscience is clear, but that isn't what matters.

It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.

5 So be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful.

When the Lord comes, he will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives.

And then God will give to everyone whatever praise is due.