

Judging Others

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Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

- I. People are prone to be severe judges of others.
 - A. It is commonly done when the accuser is guilty of the very same things.
 - B. We are able to see the wrong when others are doing it, but are somehow blinded to it when it is we who are doing it.
 - C. We can see examples in the Bible of people judging and punishing others for crimes while they are practicing the very same things themselves.
 1. David was very quick to condemn the man in Nathan's story, but didn't recognize himself until Nathan told him plainly.
 2. The Pharisees in John 8 brought the woman caught in the act of adultery to Jesus for judgment while they were all putting away their wives and marrying others.
 - D. Having zeal against sin is no proof of one's own innocence.
 1. Many who fight against child pornography, etc. are later found to be involved in it themselves.
 2. There are many other examples of this, such as preachers who preach against some sin and are later found to be involved in it themselves. (Remember Jimmy Swigert?)
 - E. It is the work of a hypocrite when he is condemning someone of something while he is committing the same sin, or something worse.
- II. This is not a commandment against discernment and using good judgment.
 - A. We are commanded elsewhere in the Bible in many places to use discretion and judgment in dealing with people – so this cannot mean the opposite of that.
 - B. It is not a command to not form opinions about other people for that would be impossible.
 - C. It is not an instruction to us that we cannot know another person's character or whether they are most likely saved, or lost.
 1. We are commanded elsewhere to be a judge of these things.
 - D. It is a command for us NOT to condemn someone's character over particular incidents in their life.
 1. We cannot rightly judge someone's character by one, or even a few, isolated incidents in their life.
 2. We must take their life and walk as a whole in order to judge them correctly, and the younger they are, the less we have to judge them by.
 - E. It is also a command not to judge quickly and harshly.
 - F. It is a warning against judging others because any flaw in our own character will affect our judgment of others.
 1. A liar thinks everyone else is a liar; a licentious man, a hypocrite, and a greedy man do likewise.
- III. God is the judge and He will judge righteously according to truth.

- A. We may be able to condemn someone else while we are doing the same thing, and seem to get away with it because others do not find us out.
- B. But there is waiting for us all a judgment before a God who sees, hears, and knows all, and judges ALL with righteous judgment.
- C. We will have the same measure of judgment applied to us by God that we apply to others here.
 - 1. Therefore, it would behoove us to be merciful and patient; charitable and kind – and not so judgmental and hard on others while being so easy on ourselves.

Matthew 7:2-3 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

- 2. It would be wise for us not to judge someone based upon what we hear from others; we tend to let the opinions of others become our own without sufficient evidence.

IV. How wicked is the sin of doing injustice to someone's character!

- A. His happiness and usefulness depend, to a great extent, on his reputation.
 - 1. What others think and say about his character.
 - 2. It is a grief and wound to him if he knows others esteem him to be of low character.
- B. God counts his name and his honor as most important in the Word of God.
- C. The worst injury that can be done to someone is to rob them of their good name.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment...

"Who steals my purse, steals trash; but he who steals my name steals that which nought enriches him, but makes me poor indeed."

- 1. If the name of a good man is slandered and ruined, it robs the community of the good that would have been done by a good man.
- 2. It is one of the most commonly practiced sins in the church and in the world.
- 3. It is amazing how quickly people will grab onto the slightest evidence and condemn their neighbor.
- 4. It is as if it is a most pleasurable thing to condemn someone else, and bring them down in the opinion of others.
- D. People seem to be able to indulge in this sin without the least problem to their conscience.
- E. It is a sin that is very habit-forming; it becomes your normal way of thinking of others, and of treating others.
- F. Someone given to this sin becomes more and more committed to their own selfishness.
 - 1. At the same time they become less and less concerned with the rights, feelings, and considerations of others.
- G. This sin strengthens itself.
 - 1. Once you have made a statement against someone, you must prove it.
 - 2. If what you have said is proven wrong, then your own character is damaged.

3. Your own character is at stake then, and you will do anything to protect your own name.

V. It is the cruelest of sins.

- A. It ruins people's lives.

Proverbs 26:22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverbs 12:18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

- B. It ruins people's influence.
- C. It is what separates friends.

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

- D. It displeases God more than any other sin that people commit.
 1. Unbelief is nothing more than a slander of the character of God.
 2. It is a statement that God is not like He says He is or is not who He says He is.
 3. God will judge this sin severely.

Psalm 64:3-7 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep. But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded.

How little do they see what is, who frame their hasty judgments upon that which seems.
--Robert Southey

A man never discloses his own character so clearly as when he describes another's.
--Jean Paul Richter

The worthiest people are the most injured by slander, as is the best fruit which the birds have been pecking at.
--Jonathan Swift

Slanders are like flies that pass all over a man's good parts to light on his sores.
--Anonymous

To murder character is as truly a crime as to murder the body: the tongue of the slanderer is brother to the dagger of the assassin.
--Tryon Edwards

Never throw mud. You may miss your mark, but you will have dirty hands.
--Joseph Parker

I hate the man who builds his name on the ruins of another's fame.
--John Gay