

# Foundations:

## Lesson 9 -

# Forgiveness, Judging & Reconciliation

# Judging (an ice breaker)



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Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the **Lord**, and he will repay him for his deed.  
Proverbs 19:17 ESV

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.  
Proverbs 3:27 ESV

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 NLT

Certain things are reserved for God to Judge and we need to take our personal expectations and will out of the question and let God's will

# Common Thread

Forgiveness - Judging - Reconciliation... what is the relationship?

These all relate to our desire to be in control... to have "lordship" over our circumstances.

# Judging

- In a legal (biblical) sense, Judging is evaluation of facts to establish guilt (or innocence) and executing justice
  - Also, to rule or govern, Book of Judges, (County example)
- In a social sense, judging is more about evaluating others from our lens and usually with a negative bias
- *Is there a place for either type of Judgement?*

# Judging

- There are biblical ground for needing to judge, discern or evaluated
  - Ex. "Test the spirits" (1 John 4:1)
- But judgement can be a “slippery slope” if it is not done with right motive and without rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15)

# Judging

- Primary principle: you receive what you give...
  - If you judge, you are judged; if you do not judge, you are not judged
  - Luke 6:37 "*37 Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.*
  - Matthew 7:1-5 *Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others.[a] The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.[b] 3 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye[c] when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend,[d] '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 in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*

# Judging (Cont.)

- So what is the application?
  - Hint: a little more than “don’t do it”
- Let's look back at Matthew 7...it's about our focus
- Judging is primarily about our perception of others. Jesus says focus on yourself...
- 1 John 1:8 - *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

# Judging (Cont.)

- Romans 2: 1-9 - 2 You may think you can condemn such people, **but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse!** **When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself**, for you who judge others **do these very same things**. 2 And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. 3 Since you judge others for doing these things, **why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?** 4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? **Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?** 5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done. 7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

# Judging (Cont.)

- Paul's tells us this right after Romans 1 explaining man being given over to depravity.
  - He says we are just as bad!
- The meaning we can take away it that "Judging" is really the self-believe that you are more righteous than others. God's says when your judges that self-righteousness will be what you are judged on...
- 1 Samuel 2:3 - *Stop acting so proud and haughty! Don't speak with such arrogance! For the LORD is a God who knows what you have done; he will judge your actions.*
- So again, the application is to focus on yourself and your relationship with God (see Gal. 6:4)
- Galatians 6:4 - *Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.*

# When Do We Judge?

- 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 - *It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."*(REF: DEU 17:7)
- Deuteronomy 17:7 - *The witnesses must throw the first stones, and then all the people may join in. In this way, you will purge the evil from among you.*
- Paul is saying we do have a responsibility to Judge those inside the church; i.e. other believers.

# How Do We Judge?

- Matt 7:16-20 - *16 You can identify them **by their fruit**, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad 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, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*
- We examine actions, not character.

# How Do We Judge?

- John 7:21-24 - *Jesus replied, "I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed. But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses' law of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.) For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath? Look beneath the surface **so you can judge correctly.**"*
- Judging requires “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). Often scripture is taken out of context and skewed into leading people to the wrong conclusions.

# How Do We Judge?

- 2 Chronicles 19:6-7 - *and he said to them, "Always think carefully before pronouncing judgment. Remember that you do not judge to please people but to please the LORD. He will be with you when you render the verdict in each case. **Fear the LORD and judge with integrity**, for the LORD our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes."*
- 2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, **for reproof, for correction**, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God[a] may be complete, **equipped for every good work**.
- We judge with the Word..

# How Do We Address Judgement?

- Matthew 18:15-17 - *"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."*

# Why Do We Judge?

What is the goal of judging in the church?

# Why Do We Judge?

- Galatians 6:1-2 - *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer 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. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*
- 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 - *I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. **Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him**. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him. I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.*

# Why Do We Judge?

- Judging is about reconciliation!
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - *18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of **reconciling people to him**. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

# Reconciliation

- Matthew 5:23-24 - 21 "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'[c] 22 But I say, **if you are even angry with someone,[d] you are subject to judgment!** If you call someone an idiot,[e] you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,[f] you are in danger of the fires of hell.[g] 23 "So if you are presenting a sacrifice[h] at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled to that person.** Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. 25 "When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.[i]"
- Mark 11:25 - 25 But when you are praying, **first forgive anyone** you are holding a grudge against, **so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins,** too.[f]"

# Reconciliation

- Key component of Reconciliation is Forgiveness

# Forgiveness

- Matthew 6:14-15 - 14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.
- Luke 11:4 - and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."
- Matthew 18:21-35 - 21 Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone[a] who sins against me? Seven times?" 22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!["

# Forgiveness (a gift)

- Romans 12:8 - If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.\*
- We all have gift of forgiveness ("spiritual hand-me-down") we should give freely and gladly. It is also a way to bring honor to yourself and God
- Psa 25:11 - For the honor of your name, O LORD, forgive my many, many sins.\*
- Prov. 19:11 - Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

# Forgiveness (Completeness)

- Jer 31:34 - And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and **I will never again remember their sins.**"
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 - 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, **and it keeps no record of being wronged.**
- Need to forgive all offenses and not lord it over them or recall them later...

# Forgiveness (don't withhold it)

- Luke 17:3-4 - One day Jesus said to his disciples, “There will always be temptations to sin, but **what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting!** 2 It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. 3 **So watch yourselves!** “If another believer[a] sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. 4 Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, **you must forgive.**”
- Why must we watch ourselves? In the context of Jesus' message i believe he is saying our unforgiveness can cause others to sin! And we should not desire to be accused of tempting others... We should let go of offense simply be cause HE asks but also because it have have consequences on our relationships.

# Forgiveness (addressing issues)

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 - *When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter **instead of taking it to other believers**! 2 Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? 3 Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So **you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life.***

Romans 12:17-21 - **Never pay back evil with more evil.** Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 **Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.** 19 Dear friends, **never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.** For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

# Questions