

Stop Being Judgmental

Introduction

- A. Text – Rom.14:1-12
- B. Been discussing togetherness – being one in Jesus
 - 1. Be devoted to one another
 - 2. To seek to live in harmony
- C. This morning – focus is on being judgmental
 - 1. Words in text
 - Vs.1 – without passing judgment
 - Vs.3 – must not look down on
 - Vs.3 – must not condemn the man who does
 - Vs.4 – who are you to judge someone else’s servant
 - Vs.10 – why judge or look down upon another
 - 2. Paul knows that a judgmental attitude destroys unity – must be eliminated
- D. Pray

I. Sometimes Difficult To Make Sense Of Scripture

- A. **Are time told not to judge & times told to judge**
 - 1. **Not judge**
 - a. Mt.7:1 – judge not that you be not judged
 - b. Rom.14:13 – stop passing judgment on one another
 - c. James 4:11-12 – who are you to judge your neighbor?
 - 2. **To judge**
 - a. Jn.7:24 – make righteous judgments
 - b. 2 Cor.2:15 – spiritual man judges all things
 - c. 1 Thess.5:21 – test everything
 - d. 1 Jn.4:1 – don’t believe every spirit – test & see if from God
- B. **Problem is same English word – different Greek word**
 - 1. **Negative idea** = call someone into question to condemn
 - a. Jumping to conclusions
 - b. Not bothering to question my own motives (why thinking this)
 - c. Forming opinions on 1st impressions & hearsay
 - d. Looking for evidence to confirm 1st impressions
 - e. Not caring if evidence is in context or not
 - 2. **Positive idea** = testing, evaluating truth
 - a. Investigating & searching out truth
 - b. Checking the accuracy of the facts before concluding
 - c. Evaluating own actions before evaluating actions of another
- C. **Indicators of a judgmental spirit**
 - 1. Others failures improve my opinion of myself
 - 2. Others failures decrease my concern for my own faults
 - 3. Seeing others fail makes me eager to see them punished
 - 4. Seeing others fail makes me eager to tell others of that failure
 - 5. When others fail I cannot forgive them

II. Warnings Against Being Judgmental

A. Brings condemnation

1. Mt.7:1,2
 - a. Judge & judgment will return upon you
 - b. With same measure you use
 - c. As quick as we are to jump to conclusions – condemn
2. Gal.6:7,8 – will reap what we sow
3. Gal.5:13-15 – bite & devour = destroyed
4. We become our own worst enemy

B. Why do we have a judgmental spirit? Why tempted to judge?

1. Diverts attention from our sinfulness
 - a. Consoles our conscience – justifies our actions
 - b. Think – I’m not as bad as they are
2. Seeking to build myself up
 - a. Others thing badly of them – not see my sinfulness
 - b. Magnify others faults & whitewash ours
3. Allowing envy & hatred into my heart

III. Overcoming A Judgmental Spirit

A. Growing in love for others

1. 1 Pet.4:8 – love deeply = love covers a multitude of sins
2. 1 Cor.13:7 – Mofatt = love is slow to expose & eager to believe the best always hopeful & patient
3. Difference between God’s way & Satan’s way – James 3:13-18

B. Realize how ridiculous we are

1. Mt.7:3-5 – trying see speck with a plank in our eye
 - a. Priority ought be getting own life straight
 - b. Then & only then can we help others
2. We are so limited – only see surface, the external
 - a. Heart is where sin originates
 - b. Only God can discern heart

C. Focus on doing good to others

1. Mt.7:12 – practice the golden rule (treat as want to be treated)
2. Phil.4:8 – think upon these things
3. The enemy is not our fellow man – Eph.6:10-12

D. Always remember what having a judgmental spirit is doing to you

1. Setting yourself up for future judgment
2. Blinding yourself to your own faults (Pharisee’s prayer)
3. Robbing yourself of any future happiness (negativism destroys you)

Conclusion

A. Rom.14:13 – goal – not put stumbling block in way of another

1. Gal.6:1 – restore one another in spirit of love; humility
2. Heb.10:24 – spur one another on to love & good works

B. Pray