

GROWTHguide

"Do Not Judge!"

July 16, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Matthew 7:1-5, John 7:24

Romans 2:1, 1 Corinthians 5:12,

Galatians 6:1-2

DAY 1

Read [Matthew 7:1-2](#)

- What is your definition of the word "judgment"?
- Many people these days feel you are supposed to do whatever you want, and no one is ever to correct you. "If it feels good, then I can do it" is the motto. In reading the above verse, what are your first thoughts regarding what Jesus says about when we judge?
- When have you been "falsely" judged? Describe the situation and pray through the emotions that filled you during that time.
- What does it mean to you when you realize that when you judge someone, God is also judging you?

DAY 2

Read [Matthew 7:1-5](#) and [John 7:24](#).

In these verses, Jesus reminds us that we have temptations to judge the behaviors of other people while ignoring what might be happening in our own life.

- Describe a time when you discovered you were doing this. What was going on and how were you judging while ignoring your own faults?

Looking more deeply into the text it is important to note Jesus is condemning certain types of judgment. Pastor Bob pointed out one of the ways we judge people is by doing so "superficially." This is when we make assumptions about someone based upon things we see such as how they dress, the type of car they drive, the size house they live in, their title at work, etc.

- What are some ways you have judged someone superficially?
- When has someone done that to you?

DAY 3

Read Romans 2:1

Paul says another way we judge people is "hypocritically". Judging someone hypocritically is when we call them out on something they are saying or doing that we believe to be wrong, and yet we do the same thing and approve of our own behavior.

- Have you ever been the one to judge another person, hypocritically?

Pastor Bob pointed out in this instance we tend to "accuse others and excuse ourselves." In most cases where we are found judging hypocritically it is really about our hiding our own sin and blaming someone else. We transfer our own guilt or anger onto another person.

- Describe a time when you experienced this.

DAY 4

Read 1 Corinthians 5:12

Pastor Bob pointed out when his children lived at home they lived under "family rules" which meant there were certain TV shows they didn't watch, particular words they didn't say, etc. When they visited their friends' houses the same rules did not apply to other children. As Christians, we also have "family" rules that non-believers or non-Christians cannot be held accountable to. If they are not aware of or committed to our rules, how can we expect them to follow what they don't know?

- How do you feel about this? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Jesus spent his ministry reaching out to people who did not believe in God. He let them know that they belonged to him, even if they didn't believe in him. Our role in the church is not to judge non-believers, but to help them come to know the love of God so that God's grace might overwhelm them to let them know they are his.

- In what ways are you helping those who do not yet believe know they belong to God?

DAY 5

Read [Galatians 6:1-2](#)

Although Jesus told us not to judge, he didn't mean that we aren't supposed to help believers stay on the right path. The important thing is to restore one another "gently" and not to succumb to the sin of pride or to be judgmental. When we come alongside a fellow believer and help them to get back onto the right path with God, it is called restoration.

- Have you ever held a fellow believer accountable for a sin? What did you do to show them God's grace?
- When you gently restore a fellow believer how are you doing so in the same way God has done for you?