

indifferent.

Am I becoming more like Jesus
or more like the world?

Part 1: Judgement
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We give ourselves permission to judge.

Matthew 7 begins, “Do not judge...”

This judgment word is not about decision making

It's not about discernment

This is about condemnation

Condemnation is about severing relationships

Matthew 7:1-6

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

The Fundamental Attribution Error

Being hard on others while excusing our own behavior.

⁶“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

If you give away your “precious truths” or “rich wisdom” in a condemning way, condemnation will be thrown right back on you.

Solution: To eradicate the indifference of judgment,
we need to actively pursue reconciliation.

The Basics of Reconciliation

1. Am I judging?

You can't judge and love at the same time.

Merely telling someone they are wrong doesn't build their capacity to do right. Love builds capacity.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

2. Am I unoffendable?

Easily offended people easily judge.

3. Am I willing to reconcile?

Contempt says: I do not want relationship with you

Reconciliation says: I want relationship with you restored

Romans 8:1-2

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death

"The cross is the ultimate evidence that there is no length the love of God will refuse to go in effecting reconciliation." – R. Kent Hughes

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Judgment and condemnation seem to be commonplace. Where do you see them most in your world? Why do you think that is?
- 2) If you could eliminate judgment from one part of society, what would it be and why?
- 3) Would you say you struggle with judgment/condemnation or not? Explain.
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What do believe Paul is calling believers to do?
- 5) Go back and read Matthew 7:1-6. What do you hear God saying to you?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week? Is there a relationship in your life that needs reconciliation?