

Stop Playing God

Traction- Part 9

James 4:11-12, 5:9

August 2, 2009

1. WHY SHOULDN'T I JUDGE OTHERS?

➤ Because it's not Christian.

"Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you." James 4:11

"Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, 'It has come at last salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of is Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth, the one who accuses them before our God day and night.'" Revelations 12:10

➤ Because it's not Loving.

"Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" James 2:8

➤ Because it's not Justified.

"Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you." James 4:11

2. WHEN IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS?

➤ When I Am...

• Practicing the same sin.

"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. And we know that God, in His justice, will punish anyone who does such things. Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?"

Romans 2:1-3

• Ignoring my own faults.

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? 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." Matthew 7:1-5

• Judging on outward appearances.

"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b

• Jumping to conclusions.

"Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. 'Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?' he asked." John 7:50-51

• Slandering their character.

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29

3. HOW CAN I STOP JUDGING OTHERS?

➤ Remember what goes around comes around.

"Stop judging others, and you will not be judged....Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged." Matthew 7:1, 2b

➤ Remember we're all accountable to God.

"Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall." Romans 14:12-13

➤ Remember how merciful God has been to you.

"When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of His grace He declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life." Titus 3:4-7