



Part 11: No Condemnation

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Negative boundaries are often a way of reminding us what is good.

Matthew 7:1-2

¹“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.

What does Jesus mean by the word “judge?”

The Greek verb for the word judge is “*krino*”

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who *pass judgment* on someone else, for at whatever point you *judge* the other, you are *condemning* yourself, because you who *pass judgment* do the same things. – Romans 2:1

krino: the type of judgment that condemns another person.

Jesus understands something that we often miss:

God alone is judge.

If we replace “judge” with “condemn” in Matthew 7:1-2...

“Do not *condemn*, or you too will be *condemned*. For in the same way you *condemn* others, you will be *condemned*, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Condemnation destroys relationships.

Matthew 7:3-5

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.

hypocrite: from the Greek for “actor”

When we measure out condemnation it will come right back.

Jesus was not judgmental or condemning.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” – John 3:17

Matthew 7:6

“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

As long as I am condemning my friends, relatives or neighbors, or pushing my “pearls” on them, I am their problem.

Next Steps

If you're looking for ways to share your faith without getting into the trap of judging others, the class **“Just Walk Across the Room”** will teach you a loving approach. The class starts this Sunday, July 14 at 10 AM, but even if you miss the first session, you'll get plenty of great information in the remaining three sessions. Read more in today's program and sign up today at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions

1. Who's your favorite TV judge? Judge Judy? Simon Cowell? Judge Harry T. Stone from Night Court? Someone else? Why do you like them?
2. Do you think it's possible to point people toward Christ without any judgment? What examples have you seen in the scriptures or in your own experience?
3. Have you ever been the object of someone else's judgment? Was their judgment of you accurate or inaccurate? Did that make any difference in how the judgment felt?
4. Is there a particular sin or weakness in others that you find yourself judgmental and condemning against? Have you ever “written off” that sin as unforgivable by God (or yourself)? How would Jesus treat that person? Is there a scriptural example?
5. How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.