

The Relational Disciple



Do Not Judge One Another

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Do not judge one another.

Read: This is a very interesting attribute in the body of Christ, because there is a correct judgement, that we are to make, and an incorrect judgement, that we are not to make. I can't count how many times I have heard followers say, "Don't judge me", or "You are judging me". It is essential for the entire body of Christ to walk and flow in God's perfect design, especially in this area of judgement, as failure to walk in alignment to Jesus, will have catastrophic consequences for us as His people.

The judgement that we are not to pass on anyone, no matter who they are, is a SELF RIGHTEOUS judgement.

Luke 18:9-12

⁹And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

Self righteous judgement condemns and destroys people. It binds people up in chains and sentences people to a life sentence of death. Those who judge like this are themselves in chains of bondage, even though they have no concept of this. This is the judgement that the religious leaders operated their lives by and was the reason Jesus dealt and spoke to them so harshly.

Righteous anger rose up in Jesus whenever He encountered this SELF RIGHTEOUS judgement and He spoke what He discerned. Jesus was making a RIGHTEOUS judgement.

Look at these verses in Matthew 23:

¹³"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."

¹⁵"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

²⁴You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

²⁵"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence."

³³You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

We too are called to make "RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENTS". This is what the scriptures teach us.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

Q. Who is the one being judged here?

The *Relational* Disciple



John 7:24

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

A righteous judgment is discerning what is truly going on, in any and every situation or circumstance. What is the person truly saying, as opposed to what their mouth might be saying? The amount of times people say one thing and then go and do the opposite is alarming. We say we love God and people and then we chose self, all the time, over God and people. To not be able to discern this true state of our own heart or another's heart, will be the difference between the church coming into life or not.

The scriptures teach us that the saints will judge the world and angels and yet to lack spiritual discernment/judgement now, will more than likely see us not being these saints. For far too long we have confused these 2 judgements and so we are not able to help one another come out of darkness and into the light.

Questions:

1. Why is it essential we understand both judgements?
2. What is the difference between self righteous judgment and righteous judgement?
3. Which out of the 2 judgements do you relate best to and why?
4. What is required for us to no longer be self righteous in our judgment of others?
5. What is required for us to operate from a position of righteous judgement?

Pray and encourage one another to press in to all God has for us.