

Commentary on the Book of Romans

Biblical Judging:

2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

When it comes to judging others, the Bible has a lot to say on the matter. What Paul says here is that when we judge another, we are actually condemning ourselves, because we do the same things.

Remember, the first sin committed in this universe was not an outward sin, but an inward sin (Isaiah 14:12-14). Satan did not openly rebel against the Lord at first, desiring the glory, honor, and worship that belongs to the Most High alone; he first said it in his heart. This is what I am getting at here. It is quick and easy to judge others when they have messed up outwardly for all to see, but we do the same things in an inward way that is not always detected by those around us – but God sees all things (Proverbs 15:3, 11). Remember God shall judge the secrets of men's hearts according to the gospel (Romans 2:16). God knows everything and his understanding is infinite (Psalm 147:5).

Look at Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-37, 38-42, 43-48. Jesus makes these commandments stricter. Just because you never literally killed someone, doesn't mean you are not a murderer; just because you never committed fornication in the literal sense, doesn't mean you are not a fornicator; just because you don't worship images and pray to dead people, and eat things you shouldn't eat, doesn't mean you are not an idolater still.

So what is Paul saying here? He is saying, when we judge and condemn another person for their sins, we are condemning ourselves because we have done the same things they have done. All sin dishonors God right? So have not we all dishonored God at some point? We are just as guilty as they are. We ought to forgive one another as Christ Jesus has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:30-32). The scripture says he that has offended in one point is guilty of all (James 2:10). The fact of the matter is this: there is none righteous, there is none that does good, there is none that seeks after God: all we like sheep have gone astray and turned everyone to his own way and the Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

So should we not judge at all? Most people when confronted by a Christian that witnesses will eventually be told that they are judging and that Jesus said judge not. Now look at John 12:47-48. The word is the judge at the day of judgment (Psalm 96:31, Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 20:11-12). The word of God is judgmental (Hebrews 4:12) so don't be surprised when people call you judgmental when you are only relaying to them what the Scriptures say. We are to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11) and preach the word (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Now Jesus did say judge not, but he didn't stop there. Let's look at what Jesus said. Turn to Matthew 7:1-5.

He says if you don't want to be judged don't judge. Good advice huh? Why is that good advice? Because of what he says next. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and what measure ye mete, shall be meted unto you. If you are going to be harsh, expect the same in return, if you are going to go too far in judgment, you can expect the same in return (Psalm 18:25-26). That is what Jesus is saying here. But praise God, if you are going to be merciful in your judgment, you can expect the same in return (Matthew 5:7, Matthew 5:14-15).

Then in Matthew 7:3-5, he says why are you so concerned about some small sin in your brother, and you are not concerned and won't do anything about the great sin that is in your life! Do I need to say it again? Why is it we are all like that? Isn't that ridiculous? You know why we do that right? We do that to exalt ourselves above that other person to make ourselves feel good, but God sees everything. We do these things because of our pride and often we can think we don't stink and they do.

Jesus says hypocrite, why not take care of the great sin that is obscuring your eye sight and then you will be able to see clearly to cast out the sin out of another man's life. We are also told to RESTORE a brother in the spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1-3) and a Pastor has the authority to rebuke a member of his congregation that is in sin (1 Timothy 5:20).

It is okay to judge (1 Corinthians 2:15) but you must meet certain criteria before you pass judgment.

So clearly, Jesus isn't condemning people for judging, he is saying, if you are going to judge, you better not have any sin in your life AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOU JUDGING SHOULD BE TO **HELP THAT PERSON STOP SINNING** NOT TO CONDEMN THAT PERSON!!!!!!

The Woman taken in adultery

John 8:1-11

He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone at her. How about that for the convicting power of the Holy Ghost? If you haven't sinned, go ahead and condemn her, but if you have sinned and you are going to condemn her, you are going to condemn yourself. So unlike our day, the people left including the scribes and Pharisees being convicted by their own consciences and only the woman and Jesus were left. So what did Jesus do? Jesus said well where are your accusers now, has any man condemned you? She says no man, Lord. The Lord says **NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE: GO AND SIN NO MORE**. Jesus wasn't interested in condemning sinners, he was interested in saving sinners! (Luke 19:10, Ezekiel 34:1-16, 22-25). He is the good shepherd (John 10:11-18). He will lead us and guide us in heaven (Revelation 7:16-17, Isaiah 49:7-16). Praise his Holy Name!

When you and I judge another, what is our motive behind doing so? Is it to help that person or to condemn that person? I know too often in my life, it has been to condemn them and exalt me. That is sin. It should be out of pity for that person and out of a desire to see that person be reconciled back to God and to whomsoever else he has sinned against and that he might bring forth fruit. Listen, we are just like the ones we condemn for we have done and do the same things. How about a little more grace, how about a little more compassion, how about a little more mercy and forgiveness show; how about it?

The goal of the chastening hand of the Almighty is to bring forth fruit in the life of a son of God and to correct him that it might be for our profit and that we might partake of God's holiness (Hebrews 12:5-11).

We shouldn't judge with the goal of condemning them without presenting the remedy, we should judge with the goal of showing them their sin and then showing them their Saviour WHOSE GRACE IS GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN (Romans 5:20).

We are sometimes like the Pharisees (Matthew 23:23-28), we focus on certain things that we have done and that we obey and omit the more important things. What are those things according to Jesus Christ? Judgment, mercy, and faith. He told them they should do both not just what they felt like doing. Jesus wasn't against tithing, he just had a problem with them omitting certain things from the law like doing right, showing mercy and compassion, and having faith. Don't just do some things God commands do all things.

Judging concerning issues of a man's liberty in Christ and his service for him

Romans 14:3 We are not to judge another man's (Christ's) servant. To his own master (Christ, not you) he stands or falls.

Romans 14:10 Why are you judging a brother concerning liberty issues?

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God.

Romans 14:13 Don't judge a brother anymore and make sure you don't become a stumbling block to another brother.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Don't make judgments concerning another man's service towards God or not even your own, just wait until the day when the Lord comes, and wait to hear what he has to say about it, then every man shall have his praise of God.

If God wants to do one thing with one brother and do something completely different with you, don't worry about the other brother, just do what God told you to do (John 21:19-22). Run your own race that is set before you and finish your course (Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:6-8). So when it comes to these things, don't judge.

Judgments concerning sin

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 Judgment was pronounced against a fornicating Christian and Paul says I have no right to judge those that are not under my authority (1 Corinthians 5:12-13), I will leave that to God.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 Since we are going to judge the world and angels one day, we can judge things that pertain to this life.

In conclusion, if you don't want to be judged, don't judge. If you decide to judge, you must have no sin in your life when you make the judgment and you must do so with the motive of trying to have that person make reconciliation with God. You must do it in the spirit of meekness and within the realms of your authority. If you don't have a right to speak, don't speak. When it comes to liberty issues, don't judge one another. When it comes to a man's service for God, don't make any judgments, including judgments about your own service for him. The safest thing to do is let your communication be yea, yea; and nay, nay and say I don't know what a sinner you are, BUT I KNOW WHAT A SAVIOUR HE IS!

2 Corinthians 5:14-21.