

DON'T JUDGE OR CRITICIZE

Matthew 7:1-6

Introduction: There's not a person alive who has not "passed judgment" on somebody at one time or other. Most of us are quick to condemn others for their actions and often the offending person has done exactly what we have done ourselves. Why are we so quick to judge and criticize other people but never admit nor recognize that we are guilty of doing or not doing the very same thing? Jesus had something to say about passing judgment on others and pointed out that often those passing judgment are more guilty than those whom they are judging.

I. WHO IS QUALIFIED TO JUDGE?

1. To "judge" is to criticize, condemn, censor, find fault, to be "picky," etc.
 - If there is something wrong, then it is a time to help, not censor or condemn.
 - One cannot be loving, humble and helpful while criticizing.
2. Why do people judge and criticize?
 - To boost their own self image.
 - Some simply enjoy putting others down.
 - It makes some feel better about themselves.
 - It helps justify one's own behavior.
 - It points out how much "stronger" one is who is judging.
 - It is an outlet for having been hurt and revenge is sought.
3. What's wrong with criticizing?
 - Nobody knows all the facts and circumstances at that moment.
 - Everybody fails, sooner or later.
 - One never knows everything about the person being criticized.
 - Judging, criticizing is in a way, acting like God, taking His place.

II. WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND

1. History, nature and life has proven that sooner or later what one criticizes another for, he/she will do the very same thing.
2. In God's eyes, His law applies to every human being, with no exception, with the penalty for breaking His law equal to all, regardless.
3. All who break God's law will receive no mercy, shall be judged and shall be condemned.
4. Those who criticize are guilty of breaking God's law and shall pay God's penalty.

III. THOSE WHO JUDGE, CRITICIZE, DON'T EXAMINE THEMSELVES

1. Those who criticize others are always inconsistent in their criticizing and judging.
2. They always see the faults, weaknesses in others, but seen nothing wrong with themselves.

IV. THOSE WHO JUDGE, CRITICIZE ARE DECEIVING THEMSELVES

1. They always speak without thinking.
 - They overlook their own faults, acting as gods.
 - They push their brothers/sisters further down, not trying to help them.
2. No one is fit to judge in the first place.
 - The one judging is as sinful as anyone else but ignores his/her own faults.
 - The truth is that it is actually the weak who judge and criticize the others.
 - Those who judge do not look at their own faults for it hurts to admit one is not "perfect."
3. Those who judge are protecting their own conscience by judging and criticizing others.
 - Often "nice" words are used in criticizing, but still judgment is passed.
 - Sometimes "good" qualities of the person being criticized are mentioned while judging.
 - A "positive" statement (constructive criticism) is made before the "destructive" words are said.

V. THOSE WHO CRITICIZE ARE REALLY HYPOCRITES

1. One who criticizes others is trying to show him/herself to be better but is really full of emptiness.
2. Those who criticize show that they have failed to consider their own weaknesses and lack a spirit of meekness.
3. A person who criticizes others is polluted with bitterness, anger, malice and has an evil tongue.
4. Those who criticize need to:
 - know their own selves.
 - not take over God's job as judge.
 - get rid of their own sins first.
 - reach out in COMPASSION to those who have fallen, not criticize them.

VI. THE ONE WHO CRITICIZES WILL NEVER BE USEFUL TO THE LORD

1. Some will never believe in the Lord Jesus.
 - They can be saved, as any person can be saved.
 - They don't need Jesus for they are acting like God, in the first place.
 - With words they wound, scoff, trample, scorn, revile, defy, destroy.
 - With hands and power they trample, strike, tear, persecute, beat, torture, kill.

2. Some will believe in the Lord Jesus.
 - Sadly, among those who criticize and judge, are Christians.
 - People who have believed in Jesus, but from time to time allow the old sin nature to take over and therefore criticisms and judgments occur.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is a great sadness, even a tragedy that so many Christians are caught up in criticizing and judging their brothers and sisters in the Lord.
 - Damage to reputations and the Lord's work occurs when Christians criticize and judge others.
2. Let no one forget, every single person shall stand before the Lord Jesus all by him/her self and be judged for what he/she has done/said during his/her lifetime. That includes every word of judgment and criticism.
3. With this truth in mind, let us resolve to end our judging and criticizing of others and leave that to the Lord, after all that is His work, not ours.