

What Does the Bible Teach About Judgmentalism?

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of
the Trilacoochee church of Christ

8/27/20

Righteousness of the Pharisees

- Matt. 5:20 - “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- What kind of “righteousness” characterized the Pharisees?

Righteousness of the Pharisees

- Matt. 9:11, 14, 34 - “And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?...
14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?... 34 But the Pharisees said, He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”
- Matt. 12:2 - “And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”

Righteousness of the Pharisees

- Hypercritical, noting every difference and giving it the worst possible spin, refusing to consider any good purpose on the part of others
 - Mark 7:4 - “When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.”

What is Judgmentalism?

- The verbal expression or the acting out of self-righteousness; it is the bigoted thoughts, words, and actions generated by a heart troubled by bitterness, envy, prejudice, insecurity, pettiness, pessimism, pride, and contempt.
 - Elders, teachers, preachers, and members

Acceptance And Fellowship Without Being Judgmental...

- ...is easy in a family because of familial love and blood relationship
- ...is easy in social organizations based on common goals and interests
- ...is a little bit more difficult in the church, a gathering of people of various backgrounds, lifestyles, and interests; but, it can be done successfully

But Where Common Cause Does Not Exist Or
Where Open Hostility Does Exist, Acceptance Is
Hard And Judgmentalism Becomes Easy

- Differences in race
- Differences in nationalities
- Differences in political ideologies
- Differences in socio-economic status
- Differences in lifestyles
- Differences in secular interests

What Do You Think?

- Problem family
- Member with bad associates
- Unqualified workers
- Bad neighborhood
- Hippie-era slob
- Motorcycle gang member
- Unmarried couples traveling together
- Did you assume the worst in each case?

What Assumptions Did You Make?

- If you make assumptions without proof in individual cases, and you act on your assumptions, you are guilty of the sin of being judgmental
- We have forgotten that at one time all of us were sinners needing to be cleansed.
 - Like AA and recovering alcoholics, we all are former sinners at risk of falling back into sin
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Father
 - Deut. 10:17 - “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”
 - Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God.”
 - 1Peter 1:17 - “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Father
 - Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
 - Acts 15:7-9 - “And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Savior
 - Rom. 15:7 - “Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”
 - Gal. 3:27-28 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
 - Col 3:10-11 - “...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Savior
 - James 2:1-4, 8-9 - “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man, You stand there, or, Sit here at my footstool, 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Savior
 - Col. 3:12-15 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- They did not learn it from their Savior
 - Luke 15:1-2 - “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”
- Jesus answered them with three parables:
 - The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:3-7
 - The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10
 - The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- He revealed what our own attitude should be toward the lost
 - Luke 15:7 - “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance”
- Jesus not only welcomed sinners, He sought them out
 - Matt. 15:24 - “But He answered and said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Why Do Christians Become Judgmental?

- By-product of:
 - Bitterness
 - Selfishness
 - Pride
 - Jealousy
 - Prejudice
 - Cynicism
- All are attitudes of the Adversary; all are sin

What Should Our Attitudes Be Toward The Lost Or Erring?

- 2Cor. 7:4-9 - “Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation. 5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. 6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. 8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.”

What Should Our Attitudes Be Toward The Lost Or Erring?

- Eph. 5:1-2 - “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

“The World Is Out To Get Us”

- “Just being careful”; “Christians are always being persecuted.”
 - No one here today is persecuted in the same way Christians were in the first century.
 - There is a vast difference between faithless fear and wise prudence.
- Why does the world dislike faithful Christians who only have their best interests at heart?

Why Does The World Dislike Faithful Christians?

- They do not agree with the message; it runs counter to their philosophies, outlook on life and purpose for living, hopes, beliefs
- A moral example is a visible indictment of an immoral life. Incites untrue charges of intolerance
- Violates personal sense of independence; do not want to be answerable to anyone
- Excites feelings of guilt
- Shows the lost the futility of their life's course

Why Does The World Dislike Faithful Christians?

- Reminds them of a past they may wish to forget.
- Removes them from their comfort zone (threatens), implying that they will need to uproot and change their lives
- Threatens the loss of money, position, relationship
- Challenges their present lack of strength, character, or will
- Sin causes pain, and preaching reminds people of sin and the consequences of sin. People lash out when they feel pain.

Again, What Do You Think?

- When you start seeing the sad perspective of a sinner, you begin to feel less paranoia and more pity for their lot. You will want to do something to help them. You will be less judgmental and more like Christ
- What is your answer to the problem of sinners in your community?
- What if you took the time to take an interest in them?
- You might even save them and yourself.