

Made for More

Judge Not

Judge not, that you be not judged (Matthew 7:1-2). These words of Jesus are often culturally understood to mean that we should never say or believe that another person is wrong. Jesus, however, had a different concept in mind in this part of His Sermon on the Mount. To judge is to hold a final verdict in our minds about another person's worth or destiny that is different from the truth of God about that person. It is seeing people as less than God sees them, and it is often adopted or developed in us from our society, our family of origin, and/or our wounds (wounds from others, or self-inflicted wounds because of our sinful choices). All ungodly judgments are ugly in the eyes of God because they contradict the gospel. Jesus paid the price of His *life* for every person, giving them all immeasurable worth. As His followers, we are designed and called to love others (and ourselves) like He loves them. We rid ourselves of judgments – and their torment – by asking our Heavenly Father to graciously reveal them, to forgive us for believing them, and to show us what He thinks about that person or group of people instead. We then intentionally confess our agreement with what is true.

GET THINGS STARTED

What did God reveal to you this past week through the *Purify Workbook* related to forgiveness? What steps have you taken, if any, towards forgiveness in the last few days?

Many forms of prejudice and racially motivated acts of violence, especially antisemitism, seem to be on the rise. What do you think is at the root of these beliefs and behaviors, and how are they socially or culturally reinforced?

WATCH TESTIMONY VIDEO: WEEK 9

GO DEEPER

1. How does Matthew 7:13-16 reveal more of what Jesus meant by the phrase *judge not, that you be not judged*? How does the wider context of these verses contradict the popular, socially accepted understanding of Jesus' words against judging?
2. From Exodus 20:5-6, how do our beliefs and actions have an impact on our family lineage? What does it look like to *bless* – or *curse* – our family descendants?
3. In looking at 1 Corinthians 6:13-16, what does pornography and other forms of sexual immorality have to do with developing ungodly judgments? What are those ungodly judgments, and what influence do they have on relationships and our own self-inflicted wounding? What are the proper, godly beliefs and actions we should embrace concerning sexuality?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What ungodly judgments might you be holding right now, and where did those ungodly judgments come from (e.g., society, family of origin, wounding)? What do you think God says about those you are judging? What truth do you need to agree with and confess?
2. What judgments have you walked in that God has graciously reshaped and corrected? What was the process like of changing your perspective?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, intentionally take time in prayer to ask God to reveal any ungodly judgments in you. Ask Him to forgive you for those judgments and to show you what beliefs and actions you should hold that align with His perspective and heart. Ask God also to speak into and reveal any sources of ungodly judgments that need to be addressed. Ask Him to lead you in how to make necessary changes to minimize or even eliminate the voice and influence of these sources.

PURIFY WORKBOOK – FOR THIS WEEK

Session 9: Breaking Unhealthy Connections – Resolving Sexual Sin and Soul Ties