

Is it wrong to say someone's wrong?
Sermon Based Discussion (January 6, 2013)
Sermon Series: Sermon on the Mount

WARM UP

1. Have you ever felt wrongly blamed (or judged)? What happened?

The notion of judging others has a bad rap today. Even the phrase "I feel judged," implies being judged is always bad. And there's good reason because Jesus himself warns us about judging others.

But have people taken the warning too far? In this session we'll consider Jesus' teaching on judging others. We'll examine the warning for us and how to apply that to our lives.

INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 7:1-6)

2. If we only have verse 1, how would we understand Jesus' command about judgment?

3. Reading all of verses, what is Jesus' command about judging others?

UNDERSTANDING

Enoch pointed out that verse 5 teaches us to avoid two extremes in judging others. One extreme is hypocritical judgment. The other extreme is avoiding judging others altogether.

4. How can judging someone be the loving thing to do?

5. Jesus said to take the logs out of our own eyes before taking specks out of other people's eyes. Does this mean we have to be perfect before we talk to others about their sins?

DIFFERENCE

Think of the last time you observed someone doing something you knew to be wrong.

6. Which extreme do you lean towards? Being more judgmental to the point of hypocrisy or avoiding judging others to the point of never saying anything?

7. Is there someone whom you've judged too harshly or avoided saying something to when you should have? Describe the situation. (But respect confidentiality!)

APPLICATION

8. Will you set aside time this week to ask the Holy Spirit to give you a more Christ-like view of judging others?

9. Think back to the situation you described above in #7. What is one step you can take this week towards loving that person in Christ-like judgment?

For example, if you think you may have wrongly judged someone, will you set aside time to ask God if you should repent and apologize?

Or, if you sense you've been avoiding confronting someone, will you set aside time to plan out how you'll bring up the issue?

10. Will you read and reflect on Galatians 6:1-5 about how to love someone caught in a sin?

FOR REFLECTION

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens...

(Galatians 6:1-2a, New Living Translation)