

## ADDRESSING JUDGMENTALISM

I DON'T BELIEVE  
IN THE CHURCH

MESSAGE SERIES

## PRECEPT

## JOHN 3:17

<sup>17</sup> God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 5:12

<sup>12</sup> It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.

## PROMISE

A 2007 book reported that 87% of the unchurched, in their twenties, said that the term "judgemental" accurately describes present-day Christianity. Another survey from people outside the church says that the word that best describes Christians is judgemental, quite a negative word for a movement that advocates and shares the love of Christ to the world. How did it get to this?

Self-centredness is one of the main reasons we judge too quickly. We become jealous of others when we see that they are better, smarter, stronger, or faster. Then it results to us judging them which also leads to self-righteousness. When we think that we are "good enough," we judge other people as "not good enough." The truth is no one is good enough, for all of us fall short of God's standard, but when we think we are better than others, we tend to condemn others who sin not knowing that they are just like us. The Apostle Paul gave very specific instructions about judging other people, and there are two principles that we can learn from his words.

**DO NOT JUDGE THE OUTSIDERS, BUT LOVE AND CARE FOR THEM.**

Jesus came to the world to save us and not judge us, and our role is to be an instrument for others to know Christ and not judge them. We must follow the example of Christ in loving others, caring for them, and showing mercy to them when they wronged us. Mother Teresa once said, *"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."* Let us spend our time in showing love to others instead of consuming our minds to judging them.

**JUDGE THE INSIDERS, BUT UNDERSTAND AND HELP THEM.** This is where accountability takes place. This is also why we do discipleship, so that we can protect each other from sinning and when we have done something wrong, we can encourage others to repent and change their ways through God's help. We have to be careful of moral indifference, which is simply put, "If you never tell me that anything I'm doing is wrong, I'll never tell you that anything you're doing is wrong." It is this current popular notion that judging others is in itself a sin. In Galatians 6:1-2, Paul clearly tells us that *"<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ."* This is how we can judge our fellow Christians, by understanding and helping them not to fall to sin. This is also what our relationships with each should look like in the family of God. We must judge un-hypocritically and judge correctly. Matthew 7:3-5 tells us, *"<sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* John 7:24 also reminds us, *"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."* In judging the insiders, let us back it up with love, compassion, and prayers, lifting them up to the Lord.

## PRACTICE

**1. From Judgemental to Loving.** Having said that people from outside the church see Christians as judgemental, how will you help change this notion? How can you fairly judge others and show them the love of Christ?

**2. Importance of Accountability.** How is accountability different from judgment? Why is it important to have people speak wisdom into your life?

## PRAYER

**I. Workplace**

- Pray that our members would use their careers to take the Gospel to places it's never been.

**II. Economy**

- Pray for increased family livelihoods and economic empowerment.

**III. Canada**

- Pray for revival that would stir Canadians to give God His rightful place in their culture yet again.

**IV. Community**

- Pray that we will be a community of believers that genuinely loves Christ and others.

**V. Relationships**

- Pray for our relationship with God and others to grow deeper, stronger, and become more meaningful.

**VI. Church**

- Pray that churches all over the world will shine bright to share the Gospel and God's love to all.

**VII. Families**

- Pray for families to be loving, caring, harmonious, and blessed, having God's presence at all times.