

## Free From Judging

Romans 2:1-11

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### Intro

In the early chapters of Romans, Paul is making a clear case for grace. In these chapters he masterfully points out the sad state of the human condition.

He is taking apart every argument for rejecting God, every argument for pride, and every argument for self righteousness.

Paul is driving his readers to one unmistakable conclusion; without God's grace, we have no hope.

In chapter 2, Paul specifically deals with self-righteousness in judging others. We have a problem in that it is so easy for us to judge others while at the same time excuse ourselves. When we do this, we think of ourselves more highly than we ought and we think we don't need to get right with God.

### **These are the insights in judging others and the importance of being free from judging.**

#### **I. We're Not Good Judges of Ourselves**

##### A. We're often blind to our own faults

- We have a very hard time seeing ourselves objectively – Seeing ourselves from God's perspective.
- We often think more highly of ourselves than we should.

**Romans 12:3, “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”**

- We can see sin in someone else's life so much easier than we can see it in ourselves.

**Illus – It's common for us at times to think of someone else when we hear an application in a sermon, but some people can never hear. They're always thinking of how they wished so and so was here to hear this message.**

**Matthew 7:3-5, “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”**

- One of the reasons we have a hard time seeing our own sins for what they are is because we already see ourselves very negatively.

**Illus – Our self esteem often can't take any more hits. But if we knew they truth as God see us, we could receive the truth about ourselves and have faith to desire change,**

##### B. We rename our own sins

- How convenient. Others gossip, we just pass along important information. Others lie, we stretch the

truth. Others are prejudiced, we have convictions.

**Illus – other people have an anger problem, we’re standing for truth, justice and the American way!**

- We often say in our hearts, “those people should be punished! Something should be done.”

**Illus – We often hold grudges against people because of what they’ve done to us, yet we have done the same things ourselves. Holding a grudge is a way of punishing someone, of “casting a stone.”**

**John 8:7, But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

C. We judge ourselves by our intentions

- But we judge other people by the actions.
- When we judge other people by their behavior only, we misjudge their hearts, and that is the most important of all.

**Illus – When God was selecting David as King for Israel, he made a statement that we need to remember...**

**1 Samuel 16:7, “for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”**

**Luke 16:15, And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows**

**your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.”**

- What we need to do is to give other people the benefit of the doubt first, then ask them what was the intention of their hearts. If they say, “I was deliberately trying to hurt you,” then we can take the right action.

## II. Many Misunderstand God’s Patience

### A. Don’t think lightly of His kindness

- Many people look at injustices in the world and wonder why God doesn’t judge these people.
- It’s for the same reason God doesn’t judge us for all we do – God is patient, waiting for repentance.
- We think lightly of His kindness when we expect others to be judged immediately. We should be appreciating the kindness of God toward us. God knows we need time to change and when he does, this is His forbearance, His patience, His kindness.

**II Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”**

**Illus – Paul himself is a perfect example of the patience and kindness of God...**

**I Timothy 1:16-17, “Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

**B. His kindness leads us to repentance**

- This is one of the most wonderful things about the Lord; His kindness leads us to repentance.
- **We need to see that God redeems us out of His love for us. That is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ – that he loves us so much.**

**John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”**

**Illus – This is a real problem for the churches in Africa. It’s very common for the pastors to want to beat the sheep into repentance. But this is not God’s heart.**

**Illus – I think it’s a lot easier to get our children to repent when we touch their hearts, rather than give them wrath.**

**Illus – When Peter had betrayed Jesus three times, Jesus looked at him. I believe it was love he had in his eyes and that was what was so hard for Peter to see.**

- In the last days, Israel will come in the same way.

**Hosea 3:5, “Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days.”**

**III. God is a Righteous Judge**

**A. He gives to every one according to their deeds**

- When you first read verse 6, you might conclude that it says that God renders to every man according to their deeds; that’s because that is exactly what it says!
- If you persevere in doing good – eternal life is the result.
- If you obey unrighteousness – wrath and indignation.
- The problem is that there is not one person who is truly righteous in what they do.

**Romans 3:10, as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one;”**

**Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”**

**Illus – God knows how to put His finger on the very point of our selfishness. The rich, young ruler, is a good example of this very point.**

B. He judges us according to *His* deeds

- This is one of the most wonderful truths of scripture  
– That He judges us according to His righteous deeds which he gave to us as a gift.

**Illus – It was if we had done it, though we didn't, God did. It was in the same way, we were in Adam when He sinned and Adam's sin was attributed to us as if we had done it, though we had not.**

**Jesus is the new Adam, and we were in Him when He was righteous and Jesus' righteousness was attributed to us as if we had done it, though we had not.**

**Romans 8:1-4 – There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...**

C. Even Christians will be judged

- There is great confusion, then whether there is a judgment for believers.
- And the answer is "yes" there is a judgment called the "Judgment seat of Christ."

**II Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."**

- But we will be judged as those coming through fire. That which is temporal is burned up and that which is eternal remains.

**I Corinthians 3:13-15, "each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."**

Conclusion

**Since the kindness of God leads us to repentance, may it also become an example for us in that we should also give kindness toward those who offend us. May we be slow to judge and give grace even as we have received it.**