

the POWER of ONENESS

Series: The Power of Oneness
Title: To Judge Or Not To Judge?
Lesson: 4

Text: James 4:11-12
Matthew 7:1-6
Date: Feb 11, 2024

John 17:20-23 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may **all be one**; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that **they may be one**, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be **perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

James 4:11-12 Do not speak against one another, **brethren**. He who speaks against a **brother** or judges his **brother**, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your **neighbor**?

“speak against”

ANT ESV KJV - “speak evil against”

HCSB - “criticize”

NIV - “slander”

The root word of the Greek means to

“ _____ ”

Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

There are two kinds of judging:

1. _____ judging

A. We criticize one another out of sinful

_____.

James 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You ***lust*** and do not have; so you ***commit murder***. You are ***envious*** and cannot obtain; so you ***fight and quarrel***. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your ***pleasures*** 4 You ***adulteresses***, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the

Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the **proud**, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist **the devil** and he will flee from you.

B. We _____ we know all the facts and motives behind a person’s words and actions.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

Proverbs 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 18:17 The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him.

C. Our standards _____ God’s word.

We judge unrighteously when we hold others to our own personal convictions in areas where Scripture is silent

D. We _____.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

Proverbs 17:9 He who conceals a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

Proverbs 11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals
secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

E. We Judge by _____

John 7:24 “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge
with righteous judgment.”

James 2:1–4 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our
glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal
favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a
gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes
in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special
attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say,
“You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man,
“You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” 4 have
you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become
judges with evil motives?

James 4:11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He
who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, **speaks
against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law,
you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.**

When we wrongly judge others we commit two sins:

1. We place ourselves above scripture.
2. We place ourselves above God.

12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

Avoiding unrighteous judgment is _____.

2. _____ judging

Matthew 7:1-6 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 “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? 4 “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? 5 “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. 6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Matthew 7:1-2 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you

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5 “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.

Humble, righteous judging _____ unity.

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

So what does Righteous judgment mean?

A. We are to judge _____.

Matthew 7:15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Romans 16:17–18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.
18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

1 Timothy 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:17–18 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

Philippians 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord

3 John 9–10 I wrote something to the church; but **Diotrephes**, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

B. We confront sinful _____ .

James 5:19–20 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Matthew 18:15–17 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

17 “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;

and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Are we to judge or are we not to judge?

We are forbidden to exercise unrighteous judgment, but we are _____ to exercise righteous judgment.

Discussion Guide

1. In our Lord's high priestly prayer, Jesus asked the Father to bless the church with oneness. Why is that so important?
2. Why do you believe the idea of judging is so misunderstood and misapplied?
3. How does the application of unrighteous judging and righteous judging affect unity?
4. After listening to the sermon, how would you respond to an unbeliever who says "you are not to judge." How would you respond to a believer?
5. What point(s) did you find most personally convicting?



ANSWERS: Kick with the foot, Unrighteous, attitudes, assume, exceed, gossip, appearance, freeing, Righteous, preserves, teachers, behavior, commanded