

sermon study guide

Sermon Summary (see next page for discussion questions)

“Romans” Part 4: The Danger of Judging Others

October 30/31, 2021

Dr. Henry Schorr

In the opening chapters of Romans, Paul gives us an extensive explanation of the gospel, or how to be a friend of God. However, he begins by first telling us of those things which hinder us from having this authentic friendship with God. Paul describes in detail that it is a pervasive worldview that declares, “No thank you!!” for God in their life and that they will defiantly do what they want to do. God turns them over to their self-centered sin and pride and allows them to reap the consequences of their choices. This self-centered attitude is as present today as it was 2,000 years ago when Paul wrote Romans.

In Chapter 2, Paul turns his attention to the self-righteous, those telling themselves that because they have no part in the shenanigans of Chapter 1, they are thus rather morally superior, smugly respectable citizens. The problems of the world are due to ‘those Chapter 1 fools’, not they who live decent, moral lives. However, by trusting in their own respectability comes the inclination to judge others. Whether it be pride or insecurity or something else that causes us to find fault and judge others’ lives or their spirituality, it puts us in a dangerous position because only God has the right to judge. Like God, we must hate sin; but it is His job to deal with the sinner. It is our job to love them.

We are not to judge because:

- **We are unworthy to judge** (Romans 2:1, 3). We are often blind to our faults (Matthew 7:3) as we often do the same things we condemn in others. This can cause us to accuse others and excuse ourselves, maximizing their sins while minimizing our own. This is rampant in today’s ‘cancel culture’.
- **We are unqualified to judge** (Romans 2:2). Because God knows the truth about everyone, ourselves included, His judgments are right and just. Our judgments are fallible and sinful, focused on the person today, and unaware of what God may yet want to do in and through their lives.
- **We too will be judged** (Matthew 7:1-2). When we judge another’s life or their faith, others will judge us with the same standard that we have used in our criticism. God judges unbelievers (Romans 2:5) and disciplines His children (Hebrews 12:6).
- **We are destroying the work of God in the Church** (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Paul is describing the Corinthian church as a temple of God and that God is building it up. We, individually and corporately, are under construction while undertaking the building of His Kingdom. However, God will not stand for it if someone tries to tear it down.

How might we safeguard ourselves from a judgmental and critical spirit?

1. **Judge ourselves and repent.** Repentance means we have examined ourselves in light of God’s Word and identified something that is wrong in us, changed our minds and aligned our lives with God’s Word. We need God’s grace and forgiveness as much as those ‘Romans 1 people’.
2. **Judge others with our life.** Nothing judges people more effectively and reveals their need of God more than observing a life that is fully devoted to Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:12). Consider this question relating to others: How would I want to be treated by this person?

Have you judged another harshly? What is God saying to you? What is He inviting you to do about it?

sermon study guide

Discussion Questions

“Romans” Part 4: The Danger of Judging Others

October 30/31, 2021

Dr. Henry Schorr

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What authority figure comes to mind when you look back to when you were young? What quality did they possess that makes them stand out to you?
2. Tell of a time when you had to be the ‘Judge’ in a situation. How did it feel?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 2:1-5 & Matthew 7:1-5

3. What kind of judgment is Paul condemning in Romans 2? Is ‘judging’ others always wrong? Discuss.
4. When the topic of ‘God’s Discipline’ comes up, what comes to mind?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 and Hebrews 12:5-7.

From these verses what is the difference between God’s discipline and judgment? How does God’s “kindness, tolerance, and patience” appear in everyday life (Rom 2:4)?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. As you grow older in your spiritual life, has your appreciation of God’s grace grown stronger, or have you been taking it for granted? If the latter, what has God been saying to you about that? What do you need to do about it?
6. Consider a group of people you may not feel comfortable with because of how they live, where they live, or what they believe. How might we reflect God’s kindness, tolerance, and patience to them in word, deed, and inner thought?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Reflect on how you’ve been treating others in your life – in word, action, and inner thought. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any judgmental, critical attitudes and how you can “do to others as you would have them do to you”. What might you need to repent of?

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 2:1-5

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 “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? 4 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? 5 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.”

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

Hebrews 12:5-7