

JUDGING AND CRITICIZING OTHERS SEEMS NATURAL

Matthew 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42

Introduction: "I wouldn't be caught dead in that get-up!" "Did you hear what he/she just said?" "What's wrong with that idiot?" "Would you look at all that junk she has on her face and stuck in her ears!" Everybody judges and criticizes others. It seems to be a part of our natural make up, just like breathing. So what's wrong with making "innocent" comments about other people? For one thing, God said not to! Jesus gave some stern warnings and consequences about judging and criticizing others.

I. EVERYBODY JUDGES AND CRITICIZES OTHERS

1. When a person does come "short" or done something wrong, he/she is usually condemned by others, although that is not the time for censoring, but compassion.
 - If there is an attitude of care, of concern, of compassion in a person for others, there usually won't be very much judging and criticizing, if any, of others.
2. What prompts us to judge and criticize others in the first place?
 - We want to boost our own self-image, so we "put others down" thus elevating our own selves.
 - Some people actually enjoy hearing and seeing others act in ways that they wouldn't act.
 - Putting other people down makes us feel that we are better than those we put down.
 - Criticizing others helps us justify some things we have failed at in our lifetime.
 - Judging others is a way of hoping to impress our friends at how much better we are than those we are criticizing and judging.
 - Sometimes we want "pay-back" for being hurt ourselves, so we try to "hurt" others by judging and criticizing them.
3. What's wrong with us judging and criticizing others?
 - Obviously we don't know all the facts.
 - We forget that we are not perfect either and do things just as dumb or bad as those we criticize.
 - We don't really know all there is to know about those we criticize, the "why's, how's, etc.."
 - God said for us not to! We are not fit nor equipped to judge anybody, only God is.

II. GOD IS THE ONLY QUALIFIED ONE TO JUDGE

1. Whenever we criticize and judge, we will answer to God for every time we do. That's scary!
2. God will judge us in the same way and degree we have judged others. Think about that!
3. God's Word states that those who criticize will actually be judged with greater condemnation.
 - **James 3:1-2**
 - Those who criticize others will receive no mercy - **James 2:13**
 - Those who criticize others will also be judged - **Matthew 7:2**
 - Those who criticize others shall be condemned - **James 3:1**
 - Those who criticize others shall not be forgiven - **Luke 6:36-37**

III. FAULTS OF THOSE WHO CRITICIZE

1. When one criticizes and judges others he/she is being blind to the fact that he/she also fails and is not perfect.
2. When one criticizes and judges others, he/she is only fooling him/herself.
 - He/she is overlooking/ignoring, denying his/her own weaknesses.
 - He/she is committing one of the greatest sins.
 - He/she is lifting him/herself up over others as if he/she were some sort of god.
 - He/she is pushing a brother/sister farther down but he/she is instead to be lifting up that person.
3. He/she is not fit to judge or criticize anybody.
 - He/she is as sinful as those he/she criticizes.
 - He/she is actually weaker than those he/she criticizes.
 - He/she has not taken a close look at his/her own self.
 - He/she is trying to protect his/her own weaknesses.
4. Those who judge and criticize are in reality hypocrites.
 - They show themselves to be full of only selfishness and emptiness.
 - They fail to examine themselves and show the spirit of kindness, gentleness and meekness.
 - They reveal their own bitterness, anger and jealousy and fail to show tenderheartedness and forgiveness.

CONCLUSION:

1. Just about everybody has judged and criticized somebody at one time or other, thus being guilty of this great sin.
2. Christians, there are steps we need to take;
 - We need to accept who we actually are, sinners, and just as weak as those we judge.
 - We need to stop taking God's place in judging. God alone is judge, not any of us.
 - We need to get our own life straightened out and corrected.
 - We need to start reaching out in compassion, gentleness, helpfulness instead of judging.
3. We Christians who judge and criticize are not worthy, totally undeserving of the salvation we have received so freely by Grace.
 - None of us are free from sin but it is a tragedy for any of us to act as if we don't know about the tender mercy and forgiveness of the Lord Jesus by not being gentle, merciful and forgiving to those around us.
 - What a sad thing for Christians to be guilty of using words and acts to damage the reputation and work of others.
4. Christians, it seems to be a part of our old sinful, human, nature to judge and criticize, but remember, the Holy Spirit has given us a new nature, we have been born again, therefore, let us put off, put away the hurtful, sinful things we have done in the past and let us live and act as the Children of God should act. Let us put aside judging and criticizing.