

Sermon Title: Don't Judge Me!

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21, 5:1-13, 6:9-11, 19

"Don't judge me!" Have you ever been on the receiving end of those words? Have you ever spoken them? Does it matter from whom/to whom they're said?

Last week we talked about the importance of having "the mind of Christ!" Is it possible to have the mind of Christ, & a life that doesn't align with Him?

Vs. 20 - **"For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power!"**

The Church is called to faithfully reflect Jesus Christ in both mind & body, in both word & deed, in both proclamation & in practice! But do they/we?

Paul is seeking to correct the "Church" in both their thinking & their living! But is the "Church" willing to listen, repent, & realign themselves accordingly?

Paul is not present with the Corinthian church to deal with these concerns face to face, but this letter is intended to hold the same authority as if he was!

Vs. 21 - **"Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?"**

Paul is serious, what he is addressing is serious, & it's out of his love for them! We can see Paul's heart and his intention for this letter in **1 Cor. 4:14-21**.

Paul now transitions In Ch. 5, to address his first of many concerns with this church... All of which are due to thinking wrongly, & living sinfully as a result!

Ch. 5... Vs. 1-2 - **"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, & of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you."** This is sin of both the mind & body!

The Corinthian Church was distinguishing themselves from the rest of the world, but in the wrong way! Pagans wouldn't have even affirmed such sinful acts!

- In what ways are we, the Church, failing to reflect God's Kingdom reign?
- What are we ok with, that God would not be ok with? For/Against

The Corinthian Church thought that their freedom in Christ made all things permissible, but our freedom is never a freedom to sin, but a freedom not to!

How should the Church have responded to such sin/a sinner? **"You are to deliver this man to Satan (remove him from the church) for the destruction of the flesh (to experience the consequences of his actions), so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord (to lead him to repentance & restoration)."**

Discipline is needed in the Church for the same reasons it's needed in the home.

Church discipline is always to be for the purpose of restoration, not permanent removal! It's to benefit the sinner, long run, despite the immediate pain!

But some will say, "who are we to judge?" Some will argue, "Love is love!" As Christians, we have the right, & the responsibility, to call one another out in our sin, even when we ourselves are sinners too!

Ch. 5:12 - **"Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. 'Purge the evil person from among you.'"**

It's not our job to judge the world, that's God's job, but He has called us to judge one another in the faith, so that our beliefs & practices, are consistent with the Kingdom to which we say we belong, & to the King we claim submission to!

Do we invite Christian brothers & sisters into our lives to sharpen us, to call us out, to rebuke us, if necessary, when we go astray in belief &/or practice?

We are to take sin, & sinners, in the church that seriously! Jesus died, not to make sin ok, but to pay the penalty of it & break the power of it in our lives!

How do we do that? How do we judge sin, & each other, in ways that God calls us to? Again Paul says, **"I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality, or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler – not even to eat with such a one."**

"Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump... Unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." We are to be "new creations", where the old has gone & the newness of Christ, has come! Remove the grave clothes!

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

This is a long list, & one that you can't single out one sin & not the others! To justify any of them is to deny the truth of God! The world may see things differently... Our own flesh may see things differently... But God has spoken!

What hope is there then, for any of us sinners? We all are judged guilty by this list? **"And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ & by the Spirit of God."**

"You were bought at a price... You are not your own... Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you... So glorify God in your body."

"Search Me, Know Me"

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