

**LIVING UPRIGHT IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD**  
**#18: JUDGING DO'S AND DON'TS**

*(Jesus said) Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 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? 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? 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. Do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.*

*Matthew 7:1-6*

### **I. Don't Be a Critical Condemner**

**WORD WEALTH:** *Judge* (Greek: κρινω or krino) – harsh, condemning, judgmental attitude

#### *The critical condemner...*

- Judges to \_\_\_\_\_, rather than restore and build up, often to feel superior to others, and “labels” people.
- Judges \_\_\_\_\_, with little love and concern.
- Is \_\_\_\_\_, often judging minor, infrequent sin.
- Uses subjective, \_\_\_\_\_ standards, rather than God's standards.
- Judges others in areas they have no \_\_\_\_\_ to judge, such as expecting others to meet their own expectations.

#### *What Jesus has to say:*

- Critical condemners magnify the sins of others while \_\_\_\_\_ their own.
- Critical condemners must apply the same level of critical standards to themselves, as they use toward others, because God \_\_\_\_\_!

### **II. Don't Be a Complacent Condoner**

#### *The complacent condoner...*

- \_\_\_\_\_ or accepts any sin in another person's life. They say, “Hey, it's none of my business.”
- Will not take a \_\_\_\_\_ on issues and sins that God has clearly forbidden and condemned.
- By their silence, often implicitly \_\_\_\_\_ another person's sin-lifestyle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the sinner, by doing nothing to keep them from self-destructing in their sin.
- Is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_, valuing “being liked by everyone” over the spiritual welfare of the sinner.

*My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

*James 5:19-20*

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

*Galatians 6:1*

### III. Do Be a Compassionate Confronter

#### *The compassionate confronter...*

- Confronts others out of love and concern for their \_\_\_\_\_.
- Is spiritual, able to receive God's guidance on whether the sin is \_\_\_\_\_/continual (not minor and infrequent) and whether he/she is the \_\_\_\_\_ person to confront.
- Is able to restore \_\_\_\_\_, in love, and in such a way as to restore the people. This often requires a caring relationship and a process that is long-term.
- Is able to distinguish between an issue or action that is truly \_\_\_\_\_, and one which is a matter of opinion or personal preference.
- Understands he or she is but a fellow spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (humility).

### IV. Do Check For Personal "Plank-Eye"

- "**Plank-eye**" is the spiritual disease that critical condemner have which makes them \_\_\_\_\_ to unaware of their own planks (faults, sins) even as they judge others of theirs. Jesus says people with "plank-eye" are hypocrites. They have no credibility and are an embarrassment to him. They have no right to judge others.

#### *What Jesus has to say:*

- "**Plank-eye**" people need to do a personal \_\_\_\_\_ to discover their own personal faults. Then they should begin the process of removing them. God is there to help through prayer, Bible, and spiritual friends for the check-up.
- When doing the personal check-up, "**plank-eye**" people will find that: 1) They are just as human and \_\_\_\_\_ as the next person, so has no right to criticize. 2) They will be so busy removing their own planks (faults) they will not have time to judge and criticize others. 3) Their big "planks" are worse than others' small specks.

### V. Don't Be Foolish and Give Your Good News To Dogs

#### *What Jesus has to say:*

- We give the sacred (our good news about Christ) to dogs (not the nice adorable pets, but the dangerous, wild and violent kind) when we \_\_\_\_\_ waste our time and jeopardize our lives with those who are violently opposed to the good news and you.
- Christ tells us to use \_\_\_\_\_, sound judgment, and His guidance on when we approach with our pearls of the good news (Gospel). We are not to approach wild "attack dogs" or "pigs" – those scoffers who are so wild and rebellious; they will turn on us, hurt us, and abuse the Gospel of Christ. Avoid them. Instead, we should use our time more wisely by approaching people who are open and perceptive.

#### *Remember...*

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.* *Matthew 7:12*

**Answers:** I. Tear down; harshly; nitpicky; personal; right; overlooking; will. II. Ignores; stand; affirms; hurts; selfish. III. Welfare; serious; proper; gently; wrong; struggler. IV. Blind; check-up; sinful. V. Foolishly; wisdom.