

ME:

Good Morning...It is great to be here with you today...If you do not know me or if I have never met you I would love to following the service today...I will be in the foyer after today's message...

It is great to be here with you...

I just want to thank all of you here today... You say, why? It's not just for being here today...But the first 7 months of my tenure have been great and very promising...And I want to thank you for your support but also your faithful giving to this church over the last 6 months...

Because of your faithful, fruitful and abundant giving, we have been able to tackle fervently some of the projects around here...Like the FLC hallway and so many other projects...Thank you for faithfully giving and supporting the ministries here at Calvary...

Before we begin let us pray...

ME:

Today, I'd like to talk to you about "κρίνω"...that is the Greek verb for "judging"...

Culture of Judging:

But ya know...As I was meditating on this week's passage, I realized something about this world...That it is full of judging...I mean FULL of it...

The media hypocritically and constantly says, "You can't judge others" but then fill newsstands full of judgment...Ladies and gentlemen, our world is full of judgment and criticism...

I mean think about it...

There is judging in sports...Think about the Olympics...Who decides the medal winners? JUDGES, right? And how do they decide the gold medal winner?...Based on Judgments... They judge and compare each contestant choosing the best...

There is judging in the Beauty industry...How do beauty magazines and exercise magazines get people to purchase it? Judging...They show you a fit person... and then they talk about how to be like them...Then We "normal" people look at ourselves...and Say, "Ya know I can stand to lose 10 pounds...I will read that..."

There is judging in business...If you were to pick up Fortune Magazine, turn on CNBC, or Read Bloomberg News...What do you instantly see?

Writers, authors, journalists and tv personalities judging companies... I mean even think about something like the S&P500....The S&P 500 index represents the 500 biggest American public companies...How do you distinguish the biggest ? By judging companies based on market cap...

Standard for Judging:

But I want you to think about something else really quick too...What is required to make judgments? What must you have to judge others?

(Hold up a yardstick)... I used this illustration on a Wednesday night prayer meetings several weeks ago...What is this? It is a yard stick...It is a straight edge.....But go even simpler...

What is this? It is a "Standard", right? This is a standard for length...It allows us to judge distances, right?.....Think about judging people..... In order to judge in beauty, in business or even in sports what must you have? **A standard**, right...A standard for comparison...

Story:

To tell you a quick story... I am a bit of a nerd...I know shocker...Well, actually I am a total nerd...

If you know me very well, you may know that I love numbers...I love numbers so much that as a teenager I would stay up late at night pouring over and memorizing baseball and basketball stats...Then I would take those stats and compare athletes...I know weird...

Yet in order to compare and really judge them, I had to have something..... **A Standard**, The standard in any sport is the G.O.A.T., The greatest of all time...I would basically stay up late at night memorizing Babe Ruth's stats and Michael Jordan's stats then compare everyone based off that standard...

In order to compare and judge... There must be a standard...And based on that standard it is determined one's greatness...

Transition: And yet... A culture of judging...A culture of comparison and measuring up to standards does not just exist in the world of business or in sports...

Transition: But Far too often a culture of judging exists also in something called PEWS...

WE:

Transition: I imagine every single one of us can affirm this...That far too often church pews are merely the judgment benches of fellow believers...Yet, I also imagine every single one of us

in this room has felt judged and hurt by another Christian's ill timed comment or comparison at one time or another...

Perhaps the greatest wounds Christians carry are not the scars of sin but the scars of unnecessary and hypocritical judgment...

And Perhaps the great weapon of the enemy to cause division is Christians brothers condemning brothers...The quickest way to get rid of someone in church is by judging them...

Friends, let us not aid the enemy...Let us not do the enemy's work for him...Friends, if we let it...Judging one another in the church will lead to division, hurt, animosity, gossip, frustration and even bitterness...Unnecessary and Hypocritical judging is a Great Divider...

Friends, I cannot even tell you how many stories I have heard of people's scars from being judged by another Christian...I know of many, many people that have left church and even the whole faith because of a nasty judgmental comment...

But friends...it doesn't have to be this way...hurting one another over judging doesn't have to exist...We CAN ACTUALLY live in harmony...

Transition: But The issue of Judging fellow believers is not just a modern problem but has been a problem existing for millennia...And the issue of judging is the very issue in which Paul is addressing today in the Book of Romans...

Transition: So, Come with me to Romans 2...Romans 2 and we will be looking at verses 1-11...

Transition: To give you a brief preview...Paul in his treatise of hypocritically judging...Paul first gives a **warning** to all believers in verses 1-3...a **principle in verse 4** and a **consequence** in verses 5-11...

GOD:

We will begin our discussion with the warning in verses 1-3...

Read verse 1... *"Therefore you have no excuse, ^beveryone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?"*

What is Paul's Warning here? It kind of instantly pops off the page... Paul's point here is for the audience of "you" (and we will talk about who "you") not to Judge or Condemn Others, right?

More specifically, not to be hypocrites...Not to condemn and judge others and then practice the same things yourself...Why? Because if they judge others hypocritically then they condemn themselves

Point #1: Don't Hypocritically Judge Others.....Why Not? Because we Reap Self-Condemnation

Point #1: Don't Hypocritically Judge Other Because it Reaps Self-Condemnation

But there is an interesting question from verse 1...Who is "you" in verses 1-3?...Before I answer this...I want you to notice something very interesting with me...Paul's audience actually changes a bit from Chapter 1 to Chapter 2...

Notice at the end of Chapter 1... in verse 28...Paul is talking about "they" ...and then in Chapter 2...He is talking to "you"...The "they" in Chapter 1...are specifically Gentiles...or everyone else that has ever existed that wasn't a Jew...

And notice what he says about they... That "they"...Are totally and completely broken...Their hearts are impure, Their minds are depraved and Their Souls in verse 32 deserve death...

Paul goes from talk about "they" "Gentiles" to addressing in Chapter 2 "you" which are **Jewish Christians in the Roman Church....**

And what does Paul say is the problem with "You" His Jewish audience?

Verse 1: "Therefore you have no excuse, ^beveryone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."

What is the problem?

Problem #1: That they are judging the Gentiles...For the Gentiles' practice of idolatry... of Sexual perversion...for their unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, insolence, arrogance, boasting and unmerciful natures...

But then they (The Jewish Christians) themselves practice the same things...

Why can't judge others? Because they are hypocrites...They practice the same things in which they condemn...

Practical:**Clear Your Throat...Allow me to awkward make a blunt point here...**

Oftentimes, we as Christians are quick to judge and slow to notice...We are quick to see other's faults and ignore our own...I am preaching to myself here at the moment...

Can I poke even a little further? If Paul were here today...What would he command us? I believe he would say something like this...When you notice something you don't like about another Christian...Before you say ANYTHING to them...First, Look at yourself...

Listen, before you confront...Before you say a "nasty" comment to another...Check Yourself...Just because you know the Bible...Just because you are finely dressed on Sunday morning...Or just because you come to a conservative Bible believing, Bible Preaching and Bible thumpin' Bible church...DOES NOT give you the right to judge others hypocritically...

Transition: Because if any group of people had the "right" to quickly judge others and ignore themselves it was the Jewish nation...If any people on earth had the right to judge others...It was these people...

I mean think about it...

The Israelites...Paul's audience in Chapters 2...their very status...Is that they are **#1: Promised people of God...The were, and remain God's** chosen people I am a proud dispensationalist...Let me be very clear...They have not been replaced...

God set aside the Jewish nation to be special...That God...NO wait...That GOD...the GOD...YAHWEH...The GOD THAT CREATED the entire universe...That created light and darkness...the God that when we stare up at the heavens and stars and then stare at the smallest of life...That God...YAHWEH...

Set aside Israel as a SPECIAL people...A Special People that inherited from their Father Abraham...Land, Seed and Blessing communicated in Genesis 12:1-3...

- 2 And I will make you a great nation,
 And I will bless you,
 And make your name great;
 And so you shall be a blessing;
- 3 And I will bless those who bless you,
 And the one who curses you I will curse.
 And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Transition: The Jewish nation is so special that it will bless the ENTIRE WORLD...But not only does their "Status" give them reason to judge in their eyes...

But #2: Keys to Oracles: I mean think about it...They are so special that They Hold The Keys to the Very Oracles of God- That not only has God decided to bless the entire world through them...But they themselves safeguard the WORD OF GOD...God's instruction to the entire world was entrusted to them for provision and preservation...

I mean think about this...That the Jewish nation has influenced us even today...Because we have this (Hold up the Bible)...Because of their meticulous care for this Word, we can be blessed today...Talk about special...

#3: Ancestors: But not only in their eyes do they have the right to judge because of their status and special responsibility but think about their ancestors...Their fathers and grandfathers have been immortalized in the very Words of Scripture...

Ladies and gentlemen, if any people had the "right" to judge others despite being hypocrites... It was the Jewish nation...

TRANSITION: But...But...But...They do not have the "right" to judge or condemn others for the same thing they themselves struggle with...Paul is calling out the Jewish Christians for being "hypocrites"...and if they do not have the right to judge others hypocritically...Then we don't either... (Maybe put at the end of the segment)

Practical:

Friends, allow me to take a time out for just a second...I'd like to make an interesting observation....What are some of the things that we as Christians judge other Christians over?

Story: I asked staff this question this week in staff meeting...Just to gain their perspective on what we typically judge people over...

I've heard of Christians condemning others over the length of their Hair...

- Hair Length...When I was a teenager, people couldn't see my eyes...I got many comments...and probably a few judgments...I even heard a preacher share a story that one time a church member ran up to him with a ruler to see if his hair touched his ears...

I've heard of Christians condemning other Christians for having a tattoo...After all, if someone has a tattoo they must be a heathen...(Clear throat)...I think that is somewhere in the Book of Genesis... (It's not actually- whisper)

We judge people over the behavior of their children...Magically forgetting the imperfections of our own children...

Can I go on? We judge people over Harry Potter, Clothing, Trick or treat, Being Divorced, Egg Hunts, Women and pants, strumming guitars...And the list goes on and on...

Let us take a time out... Friends, Can I put the pastor hat on for just a moment? Can we please **STOP**...Can we please stop Condemning and Judging other Christians over small, minute issues...None of us are perfect...Wasn't that the point of Chapter 1? that we are all broken and sinful...That we are all broken vessels...**YOU ARE ALL BROKEN AND SINFUL...SO, STOP WITH YOUR SELF RIGHTEOUS HYPOCRITICAL JUDGMENT**...Because after all none of us meet the standard of judging others...The standard is perfection...Hence, why Jesus stands as judge in the end...

If I could megaphone every church in the Bible belt, I'd say this.... "Please stop...Ripping each other's hearts out and causing so much division and hurt over judging such small issues..."

Can't we just love each other? There is so much more value in loving people and correcting people's behavior in love than smashing them under the weight of our own self righteous facade.....

Transition: But then what I love about this passage is that Paul does not just throw a Stop sign up in verses 1-3...But in verse 4, He gives us a principle and then a consequence if we decide to ignore his words...

Read verse 4, *"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"*

What is the principle here in verse 4?

Before I answer this...I want you to notice something about verse 4...I want you to notice here with me how verse 4 begins...It begins with the Greek conjunction, "ἢ" which is the Greek conjunction for "or"... The "or" here is not showing an alternative...But rather introduces a rhetorical question that brings to light a false assumption of the condemning person in verses 1-3...

Notice again verse 4... *"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"*

When we unnecessarily and hypocritically condemn others...How are we then personally viewing God's kindness, tolerance and patience? We are taking God's kindness for granted...

Listen to this quote from a prominent scholar on this verse... “Paul wants to show in verse 4...that the person who thinks she can sin and yet avoid judgment that she is, in fact, “showing contempt for” God’s mercy...

God’s love for us... is not a license to sin and condemn...But should be a chain to self-examine and repent...(repeat)

What is the principle in verse 4? God’s love and kindness is not permission to sin and judge others but rather God’s kindness is a reminder to correct the sin in our own life...(verse 4- Repeat)

Allow me to demonstrate this principle with a story...

I was fortunate enough to have my parents pay for my undergraduate degree... Yet some people I graduated high school with saw their parent’s paying for their degree as a license to goof off and party because mom and are footing the bill...

I viewed it the opposite...I saw it as, “Ok, My parents are footing the bill so I better keep my act together...” Their kindness gave me a burden of responsibility...

It is similar with God’s love and kindness... God’s love and kindness is not permission to condemn others and commit sin...Rather God’s love should remind us of the responsibility we have to obey...

Transition: So we see Paul’s Warning in verses 1-3... The Principle in verse 4...Now notice with me the consequence of not stopping at Paul’s warning...

Read verse 5, *“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,”*

What is the consequence of unnecessarily and hypocritically judging others? “Storing Up God’s Wrath...Listen, if we continue in an stubborn unrepentant heart to condemn and judge others then we are “Storing Up” God’s Wrath on the Judgment Day of Christ...

Now the Greek verb for “Storing Up” here is very interesting...The Greek verb is only used 8 times in the entire New Testament...In a twist of irony...this word typically is used positively...of storing up treasures in heaven but here...it is the opposite...

And then when you couple this verb with its Present Tense, what is Paul saying is the consequence? (Fix this) That each time they or we unnecessarily and hypocritically judge others...That we are piling up God’s wrath higher and higher...Each time we do not heed Paul’s warning...The pile of wrath grows...

Ladies and gentlemen, can we take a hint?

Transition: But not only will our judgments be piled higher...But we will also be called to render....Notice verse 6...

Read verse 6, “who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:”

Verse 6 is an Old Testament quotation from Psalm 62:12... Which tells me something....That God’s wrath was stored up in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and even today for all those who hypocritically condemn others...

But it is interesting what Paul does here with verse 6...Verse 6...is a relative clause functioning as a seeming declarative statement then with verses 7-11 serving as the explanation of God’s reckoning...

Notice verses 7-8, *“to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.”*

God’s Wrath is rendered according to works...

Those who persevere in doing good....will find glory and honor and immortality, in eternal life... And those who practice verses 1-3 and those who seek self ambition and who obey unrighteousness there will be tribulation and distress...

Now, on the surface, verses 7-8 seem to contradict our understanding of Saved by Grace through Faith Alone Apart from works...

But To gain a clear understanding of these verses listen to this thought from a notable scholar, *“Paul’s suggestion that a person’s good work might lead to eternal life seems strange in light of his teaching elsewhere; However, this is not Paul’s idea...Rather, Paul goes out of his way to stress that the work of God that God so rewards is a persistent lifestyle of Godliness, (Moo page 137...)”*

In other words, Paul is not saying you are saved by works...Rather God rewards the good works of those who are saved by grace through faith.... And condemns the works from unrighteousness...

Transition to verses 9-11: But I want you to notice something really interesting in Verse 9-

11...Who is included in God's reckoning?

Read verses 9-11, *“There will be tribulation and distress ^[e]for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.”*

Who is included in God's reckoning and judgment? Both Gentiles and **JEWs**...Now, imagine the shock on the faces of the Jews when they read this...I imagine them saying, “Wait a second, you mean I am not special? That When it comes to judgment of my works that my works will be judged just like a believing Gentile?”

Notice what it says in verse 11 again, *“For there is no partiality with God.”*

Listen friends, our unnecessary and hypocritical judgments of other heap God's wrath higher and higher and our judgment will be reckoned...

Caveat:

Transition: Now before I head to application...I want to make a very quick and VERY important caveat...I can imagine if Brynn heard this message in 15 years... She would come up to me and say, “Dad, you can't judge me...You said it yourself...” “I can do what I want..” That is not what I am saying...

Allow me to be very clear...Paul's Point in this passage and my point as well is that we should not unnecessarily and hypocritically judge others...

As a parent or as a leader, it is Biblical and needed to establish rules and punishments for actions...There is nothing wrong with having standards for people...

However, I would encourage you to do something...It is actually something my parents told me as a kid...Now, My parents weren't perfect...In fact, far from it...All parents are imperfect...But my parents did have one really good honorable rule...They used to say, “You can say everything I say...” “You can say everything I say...”

My point is this...If you ask your teenager, employee, or subordinate not to do something, then we shouldn't do it either...

Also, there is room to confront a peer or brother in Christ if they are in sin...However, before you confront them..... I would ask you two things...First, ask yourself, “Is it really a sin or is it personal preference?” It is just because I don't like it or is it really sin?...And Second, Ask yourself, do you struggle with the same? Because if you do, fix your life before you fix another's

Transition: As I head to application, I'd like to address two different groups of people...

Application:

Group #1: I'd like to address sinners... Everyone's ears should perk up... Because Each of you are sinful... Each of us seek out and perform indecent and unrighteous acts... The first group are those of us that are sinners and do not know Christ...

The beauty of the Gospel is that yes we stand condemned of sin... But God made a way for us to have eternal life despite our sin... God the Father displayed his love for us by condemning his Son to pay for our sin.. 2 Cor 5:21, "He made him who knew no sin... to become sin... so that we might have the righteousness of God in him..."

If you've never believed in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior... I encourage you to believe today...

Group #2: Are those Christians who may dislike me right now... If you dislike me... I'm sorry... Truth hurts sometimes... But Group #2 are all those that seek to apply this passage to your life... So for you I'd like to Answer "So What?" How do I apply this to my life?

Before You Judge or Confront Another: **Check Yourself... Check Yourself for three areas...**

#1: Check Your Hypocrisy: Paul explicitly condemns hypocritical judgment... Because when we hypocritically condemn ourselves... We store up God's Wrath which will fully be rendered at the Day of Judgment... Check Yourself for Hypocrisy... Before you condemn others... Let us not look at the speck in our brother's eye when there is a log in our own...

#2: Check Your Motivation... Before you judge or confront a brother check your motivation... Before you confront or judge a brother... Ask yourself the question, "Is it really sin or is it just because I don't like it?" or ... Because oftentimes the judgments we have towards other people are not Biblical but merely personal preferences...

And friends, with my pastor hat back on... Let us strive first for unity and second... Let US STOP... Stop stabbing each other over silly issues... That aren't sin... Your distaste of something is not often founded in the Bible but founded in Preference...

- Check Your own brokenness... If you ever feel justified in confronting or judging a brother over sin... Before you say anything... Remind yourself of your own brokenness... Judge a brother only to restore them not to be "right"...

As I close, I want you to really listen to this simple sentence that packs a wealth of Truth...

WE:

"God's truth judges created things out of love, and Satan's truth judges them out of envy and hatred." By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

— [Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship](#)

Let us Pray