



ONE
ANOTHER SERIES



Don't Be Judgmental of One Another

ROMANS 14:10–13
MATTHEW 7:1–2



STUDY GUIDE

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STUDY GUIDE • ONE ANOTHER SERIES

Don't Be Judgmental of One Another • Romans 14:10–13 & Matthew 7:1–2

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask any of your GG members to share a personal experience of how someone had passed on judgment on them over opinions, views on a particular issue, or for simply being different in personality, intellectual capacity, etc. How did that make you feel? How did you respond as a believer and follower of Christ?

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [Change My Heart O God](#)
- [Purify My Heart](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members learn to exercise moral discernment, esteem one another in the Church, and treat other people with respect despite differing opinions and convictions.
2. GG members learn that none of us live or die to ourselves, for we are the Lord's and we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
3. GG members learn to build up and encourage one another and avoid putting a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of each other, especially those who are new in the faith.

INTRODUCTION

There are attitudes and behavior that can ruin fellowship and stifle spiritual fruitfulness. These are usually caused by differences between Christians over matters that are neither commanded nor prohibited in the Bible. Believers should engage in matters that unite rather than divide (Romans 14:1-8). Christ's power is manifested in the church when we, a people of diversity, genuinely love one another. Satan works to create division among us.

In our passage, Paul addresses such threats to unity when mature (strong) believers—both Jews and Gentiles—quarrel with immature (weak) believers. As trivial as it seems, most relational issues among believers are about non-essentials than anything else. People are judged based on them rather than on Biblical standards.

Paul gave reasons why believers should not pass judgment on one another (Romans 14:10-12)

In the previous verses, Paul exhorted both the strong and the weak believers (vv. 1–9). The strong are tempted to quarrel with those who have a weaker faith. They ridicule and condemn the weak with their delicate conscience. Conversely, the weak are prone to pass judgment on those who feel the liberty to eat anything. At the core of Paul's exhortation is the reality that the Christian's life is not his own. Both in life and in death, Christians belong to the Lord.

Paul gave two good reasons why believers should never pass judgment on one another: a) A time will come when they will all stand before the judgment seat of God to give an account. Christ is the ultimate judge of one's motives and actions. b) A judgmental attitude toward others will result in them being treated in much the same way by God (Matthew 7:2).

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

1. Paul used the term “despise” (vv. 3, 10), which means to have contempt or disdain. Do you think there is such a thing as righteous judgment? The phrase “pass judgment” (v. 3) means to condemn. How do you avoid being judgmental or condemning without losing moral discernment?
2. What did Paul mean when he said, “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God”?

Application

Instead of passing judgment on others, we are to look at our lives instead. Jesus Christ is the only one who has the authority to judge people. What are some things in your life that you need to work on?

Believers should instead avoid becoming stumbling blocks to others (Romans 14:13)

Paul exhorted the believers that instead of passing judgment on one another, they should look out for each other, making sure that they place no stumbling block for other believers. In doing so, they build one another up instead of tearing each other down by passing judgment against one another.

1. What other alternatives can Christians do to avoid passing judgment or condemning others? How can we truly be intentional about it?
2. Godly wisdom dictates Christians should be careful about their preferences becoming a hindrance to others. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24. What insights do these verses offer believers?
3. Behind all the different convictions and behaviors, what should be our ultimate goal when we confront issues not addressed by the Bible? According to Matthew 7:5 and John 7:24, how can we, as believers, practice moral discernment?

Application

Anything a Christian does (even biblically permissible things) that causes another person to sin or to fall is called “a stumbling block” or “a hindrance.” Has your attitude or behavior been a stumbling block or a cause of the fall of another Christian? Ask God’s forgiveness, and if possible, ask the forgiveness of the one you have caused to stumble. In the same way, forgive those who caused you to fall. If you have been quarrelsome, ask the Holy Spirit to change your attitude and make you gracious, respectful, humble, and magnanimous toward others, especially fellow believers.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Jesus is the only True and Righteous Judge, and as we trust in His dispensing of justice, we will be more reluctant to pass judgment or condemn others. Considering that truth about God, the so-called injustices others put us through become bearable and mold us into better people of God. Pray that God will help us accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us. This is a true mark of godliness. The reverse is also true, our failure to accept one another is a sure mark of carnality. Ask God to bestow us the grace to accept one another in love and compassion. Pray that God will preserve our church family from all forms of divisive, quarrelsome, contentious, and judgmental attitudes so that the name of our Lord Jesus and His Church be not ridiculed by the world. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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