

The New Testament & Our Judging Attitude

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Understanding God's Judgment

God's Attitude

Parenting Styles of God the Father (Parable of the Prodigal Son - [Lk.15:11-32](#))

- Ready to receive the son back and restore him

God's and Jesus' Intention is not Condemning

- [Jn.3:16](#) – God does not want to condemn the WORLD but to save it
- [Jn.12:47](#) – I did not come to judge the world but to save the world
- WHY?
 - People do what they do because of their experiences and programming, and you don't know what they went through

God does not appreciate Vigilantes – people with a Judgmental Spirit

- When we know what is right and what is wrong we apply the Law to people and expect them to comply, but they cannot, just as we could not
- [Lk.9:54-56](#) – The reaction of James and John: Command fire to come down
 - Be careful about taking things personally
- [Rom.12:19](#) – Vengeance is mine, says the Lord
- [Rom.2:1](#) – When you judge others you judge yourself because you are not perfect

Do Not Let Others Judge You, but You Must Judge Yourself

- People care too much about what others think of them
 - [Isa.54:17](#) – No weapons formed... every tongue that shall raise up against you
 - [1Cor.11:28-32](#) – Judge yourself and you will not be judged (this is talking to believers)
- What is important is how God judges you
 - That Jesus paid for your sins in not a license to sin

Questions to Consider

1. What is your experience in reconciling God's sovereignty, justice and love?
2. Do you feel that God has judged you strictly? Why?
3. Why do we tend to have double standards in judging others and self?
4. What can we do about question 3?
5. How does a judging attitude affect our witness for Christ and our effectiveness in reaching people with the Gospel?
6. What conclusions and practical guidelines can you derive from [Lk.9:54-56](#)?
7. What does [Rom.12:19](#) means?
8. What problems do caring for what others think of us produce?