

Adult Group Study Guide for November 15, 2020

Series: "The Bible Doesn't Say That"

Message: "Making judgments about another person is sinful."

Goal: To explore the reasons and way to correct other Christians.

Key Verse: *Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.* – Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

1. Pastor Austin mentioned two ideas prevalent in our culture that discourage us from making judgments about another person: 1) Relativism (the assumption that there is no such thing as absolute truth), and 2) Subjectivism (the belief that each person has their own, independent right to determine what is right and wrong). Name some examples of these ideas from your experience. What makes these concepts so attractive in our society?
2. Read Matthew 7:1-5. Why do you think that the first verse has become so popular in American culture today? The Greek word for "judge" refers to judgmental attitudes that tear down others in order to build up oneself. How do verses 2-5 clarify the intent of the first verse? Why is humility the first requirement before try to correct others?
3. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. How do verses 3-4 describe our relative, subjective culture? What does Paul say about judging others in verses 1-2? Why is it so important to "keep our heads" and be ready to endure some hardship when we risk speaking to another Christian about their behavior (v. 5)? How do you react when someone confronts you about an area of your life that may need change?
4. Read Galatians 6:1-6. Why is it important to reach out to a brother or sister in Christ if they are caught in some sin? What is the goal of reaching out to them? What is the law of Christ? (John 13:34-35; James 2:8) What is the danger in trying to correct another person? Why is comparison so deadly to our own spiritual health?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. Why is it so important to remember that God alone is the final judge of our deepest secrets and private motives? Why is it so important not to jump to conclusions as to whether or not someone is being faithful to Christ? (1 Samuel 16:7)
6. Read the parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Why is it important to consider the impact of "pulling up the weeds" on the growth of the wheat? How can we balance the need for purity and peace in the church? Why are humility and gentleness so important? What is the best way to correct each other? (Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 18:15-17)