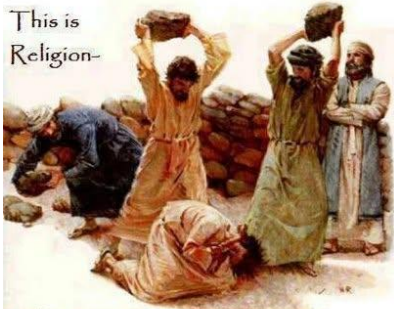


BE CAREFUL TO JUDGE OTHERS BECAUSE THEY SIN DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU!

Grace and Peace to you from the beautiful Philippine Islands. Today is Thursday, June 18, 2026. Today, our Bible reading is Romans Chapter 2. Paul makes it clear to the Romans that salvation is by faith alone in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. (Romans 1:1-4;5:1;8:1) Most people stumble over that because of its simplicity. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1st Corinthians 1:18)



This is what Religion does

BUT.....

Jesus says, He who is
without sin, let Him cast the
first stone John 8:7

In this chapter, GOD warns against hypocrisy, especially the religious crowd. They are those who pretend to be religious by going about trying to do good. We should learn to judge ourselves instead of judging others by our standards. It has been said, "Don't judge others because they sin differently than you." That is a loose paraphrase of verse one. Judgment should begin with ourselves. Many are judging from their point of view. However, they have no way of knowing the motive of the other person. As a former police officer, when I interviewed various witnesses at a crime scene each witness had different information about the same crime. Each saw it from their own vantage point. In other words, they saw what they wanted to see. When you refer to someone as a "racist" you are judging their motive. Only GOD knows the motive of a person's heart.

When you judge another person's motive you are putting yourself in the place of GOD. Carefully read verse 1 in our Chapter today. "Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." (Romans 2:1)

Do you remember the Bible passage about the woman who was taken in adultery? She was condemned by the religious leaders. They had judged her according to their viewpoint. (See John 8:1-12) My question is, "Where was the man?" It takes two to commit adultery. Her accusers never mentioned him. He could have been one of those who wanted to stone her. They may all be guilty of the same sin. However, it was easier for them to look past their own sin and see the woman's sin.

JESUS, GOD in the flesh, knew their evil hearts. (Jeremiah 17:9). He said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." (John 8:7b). They saw their own evil hearts the way GOD sees them. One by one, they dropped their stones and left. No one was left to judge the woman. Jesus lovingly forgave her and told her not to continue her sinful practice. We (myself included) all need forgiveness. (Romans 3:10;23) We can all be forgiven. But first, we must see ourselves as GOD sees us...wicked, guilty sinners in the presence of Holy GOD. We need to judge ourselves. It's easy to judge others. But that's not what GOD wants us to do. He wants us to examine ourselves. The next time you decide to get out your little wooden mallet and dawn your black robe, ask yourself this question. "Am I without sin?" Answer honestly, remember GOD knows your thoughts before you think them. (See Psalm 139:1-6)

I often find myself praying the prayer of King David; "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:24,25)

I do not consider myself a "religious" person. By definition, a religious person is someone who practices religion to make themselves morally acceptable to GOD. However, I have a "relationship" with GOD through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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