



ROOT ISSUES –THE SERIES - ■ LESSON #3 ■ PASTOR DAVID KRAMER

## Can we just admit that we love to judge people?

Our flesh loves to point out other people's faults—it somehow makes us feel better about our failures or shortcomings.

On the right is a picture of Judge Judy. She has starred in the highest Nielson-rated show on TV for 25 years called JUDGE JUDY. Her show has won three Emmy Awards. She is also one of the highest paid celebrities in the world. She is paid \$47 million dollars annually to mete out judgment to the parties in her courtroom. It's obvious that people love to watch her dispense judgment.



Let me get something straight from the get-go: I don't like to watch Judge Judy. I'm not sure I have ever watched an entire episode. I can't stand the yelling, arguments, the he-said, she-said – it drives me crazy! But, obviously, people love to watch her judge other people.

It's interesting to note that while we love to judge others, we don't want anyone judging us—right? Why? Because we think they don't know the whole story. The truth is that *fleshly judging of others* causes much separation and division in our lives—including our jobs and our families.

### 1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “JUDGE” SOMEONE?

- A. Are we saying that we can't have an *opinion* about something or make an *observation* about an event that has happened? What's the difference between having an OPINION and

### making a JUDGMENT?

1. Here's the difference:

**When we JUDGE someone, we assign a MOTIVE and even a PENALTY for their actions.**

2. In other words, we deliver a judgment/assessment based on what we have seen or think we know. We make a conscious decision—based on our fleshly knowledge—and then form a punishment/conclusion based on our decision. Finally, we plant that decision/judgment/penalty in our heart (where it eventually produces bitterness).
3. **HERE'S THE PROBLEM:** We are making judgments based on our fleshly knowledge.
4. Let's be clear: I can form an opinion about you without assigning a motive as to why you did what you did. We are allowed to have an opinion and Godly perspective; however, we are not permitted to judge others or to hate them.

### B. So, if we are not the judge, who is?

**It's simple: GOD IS THE JUDGE.**

1. Why is He the judge? Because He's the only one that sees our heart and knows our thoughts; therefore, He is qualified to judge us and determine a motive and subsequent punishment.
2. The Bible makes it clear that one day we will all stand before God and give an account of ourselves (**ROMANS 14:12**).



**C. Definition of the Biblical word JUDGE:** to *distinguish*, that is, *decide* (mentally or judicially); by implication to *try*, *condemn*, *punish*: - avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think.

### D. What does Jesus saying about us judging others?

1. **MATTHEW 7:1-4, (Amplified Version),**

1. *"Do not judge and criticize and condemn [others unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority as though assuming the office of a judge], so that you will not be judged [unfairly].*
2. *For just as you [hypocritically] judge others [when you are sinful and unrepentant], so will you be judged; and in accordance with your standard of measure [used to pass out judgment], judgment will be measured to you.*
3. *Why do you look at the [insignificant] speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice and acknowledge the [egregious] log that is in your own eye?*
4. *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me get the speck out of your eye,' when there is a log in your own eye?*
5. *You hypocrite (play-actor, pretender), first get the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."*
2. Jesus is saying that if we judge others (based on our perspective and partial knowledge of the situation), then we will be judged in the same manner.
  - a. I don't want to be judged with unfair standards—that's why I refuse to judge you.
  - b. With our human minds, there is no way that I can know the whole story because I can't see into your heart to determine motive.

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## 2. SO, EVERY BODY GETS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT AND NO ONE CAN SAY ANYTHING OR JUDGE THEM?

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**A. No, that is not the case. God is a God of judgment. He promises that all of us will be judged**



**by our actions. He is qualified to do that because nothing is hid from His view. He knows our thoughts, motives and the intent of our heart. That's why He can judge us.**

1. While we are told by Jesus to "Judge not lest you be judged," He's talking about us as individuals. He's not saying that people should not be judged, He's saying it's not our place as individuals to judge one another.

**B. God's people are judged by God's Church. It is the responsibility of God's Church leaders to judge those that are within their church family.**

1. The leaders come together and judge situations based on Biblical standards set in God's Holy Word.
2. EXAMPLE: God's Word gives us standards on which to live by. One of the 10 Commandments tells us that *we are not permitted to steal*. So, if a person steals, it is God's Word that has judged them. It is the duty of the church leaders to help dispense righteous judgment in the church.
3. There are consequences to our actions. If we sin, there is a penalty. The responsibility of the church is to share God's Word with their members so that we can make informed decisions and avoid the negative consequences if we break God's Laws.

**C. Even our secular system of judges is based on the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**. God gives us rules about lying, murder, stealing, and so on.**

1. It's important for us to understand that God's Laws are for our protection. They are not to suppress us and make us slaves.
2. **God's Laws protect us. They give order to our society. God's Laws benefit us.**

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**3. WHAT JUDGING OTHERS DOES TO YOU AND I.**

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**A. Jesus tells us not to judge others for a reason. There are negative effects that result in our lives when we judge others. Let's see what God's Word has to say about it. There are **FOUR BASIC LAWS** found in God's Word that apply to every individual on this planet. Even if you don't know about God's Laws, they still apply to you.**

**1. HONORING YOUR PARENTS – DEUTERONOMY 5:16, "*Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*"**

- » Honoring our father and mother is one of the 10 Commandments. God did not specify that they had to be "good" parents for us to honor them. We are commanded to find something to honor our parents for even if they had faults (by-the-way, all of us HAVE FAULTS).
- » **WE CHOOSE TO HONOR OUR PARENTS because God's Word tells us to do it.**

**2. DO NOT JUDGE ONE ANOTHER – MATTHEW 7:1-2, "*Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*"**

- » I can't afford to judge you. God will judge you. My job is to love you unconditionally.
- » People judge other people and use that as an excuse not to love that person.
- » God's Word does not permit us to HATE ANYONE – except Satan.

**3. YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW – GALATIANS 6:7, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*"**

- » If you are kind and loving to others, you will reap love and kindness in return.
- » If you are judgmental and critical to people, then you will receive negativity in return.

**4. YOU BECOME WHAT YOU JUDGE – ROMANS 2:1**, “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.”

- » **HERE'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO JUDGE YOU** – This scripture tells us that if we judge someone, we end up doing the same thing ourselves.
- » **EXAMPLE:** A child is raised in a family with an alcoholic parents. Even though the child hates the situation he finds himself in, if he judges his parents, he then sentences himself to the same fate (of abusing alcohol or drugs).
- » We have all heard of people raised in abusive households. Then they grow up and find themselves in abusive situations themselves (whether they are the abuser or the abused).
- » Have you ever caught yourself doing something to someone that you hated when other people did it to you?

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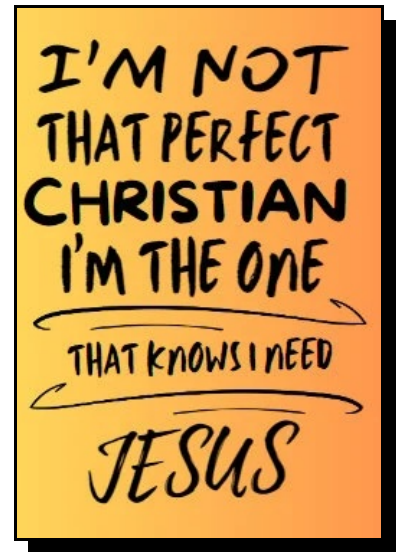
**4. YOU'RE NOT PERFECT.**

**A. In a previous lesson we discussed the fact that there's a war going on inside our bodies. We have a fleshly side and a spiritual side. The Apostle Paul said that he had to crucify his body (fleshly side) on a daily basis. The fact is this: YOU AND I HAVE TO DO THE SAME THING.**

1. We are in the process of becoming perfect (which simply means mature or made whole).
2. We grow in our walk with God by obeying His Word—even when it's the exact opposite of what our fleshly person wants to do.

**B. When someone slaps us up-side-the-head, our flesh wants to hit them right back. However, Jesus tells us to TURN THE OTHER CHEEK. That's just one example of how we have to RETRAIN our flesh to obey God and His Laws.**

1. I want to obey God's Laws because I know that obedience brings benefits into my life. Jesus came so that I can have an ABUNDANT LIFE. However, I'm in charge of how my life goes. I get to make decisions that have CONSEQUENCES or BENEFITS.



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**5. WE ARE NOT ALONE!**

**A. I know my flesh continually tells me that I will not make it, I am not good enough on my own, and the truth is—MY FLESH IS RIGHT. On my own, I cannot make it. But, here's the good news, I AM NOT ON MY OWN!**

1. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He moves into our body (through His Holy Spirit). We accept Him into our hearts. He is now with us—every moment of every day.
2. **HEBREWS 13:5b**, “...I [Jesus] will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**B. Jesus will help you with EVERY DECISION...EVERY DAY! He's that still, small voice that we hear that tells us the right thing to do. When we want to get mad at our neighbor, He tells us to keep our mouth shut. When someone trespasses against us, He tells us to forgive that person.**

1. I know its hard not to judge people, but let me challenge you with this thought: **CHOOSING NOT TO JUDGE SETS YOU FREE.** Do it for yourself. Don't fall into the trap of judging others.
2. It's hard work judging others all the time. Look at poor (not monetarily) **JUDGE JUDY.** There's a lot of weight that comes upon us from judging others. **Don't do that to yourself. Let God be the judge because He knows everything about the situation.**