

The Anatomy of Judgment, Criticism, and Condemnation

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Mark 4:24 Ampl. And He said to them, be careful what you are hearing. The thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you and more besides will be given to you who hear.

Matt. 7:1,2 Ampl. Do not judge and criticize and condemn others that you may not be judged and criticized yourselves.

For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned in accordance with the measure you use to deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.

JUDGMENT: a formal utterance of an authoritative opinion

CRITICISE/CRITICISM: to find fault with: point out the faults of methods, policies, people or intentions

CONDEMNATION: to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil.... to pronounce guilty: to adjudge unfit

We look at a situation or person and whether we know them or not...

- ◆ offer our "authoritative opinion"...
- ◆ pointing out what _____ to be the faults of their words, actions or intentions...
- ◆ and declare them to be wrong (or right), judging them unfit (or fit).

* There is a problem with this process.

We have no way of knowing their thought processes... their motives... or the circumstances that have led to their words or actions.

We are not inside their skin or their brain. They are not in ours. We are all in the same boat trying to live our life and do the best we can.

This is what it is like when we judge, criticize or condemn anyone ***for anything.***

The person of our focus is like or becomes - the defendant on trial. Their "offense" or "crime" is ***anything*** that ***we have decided*** merits ***our attention*** and ***our action.***

"I" have gathered 'my' evidence (real or perceived in my own mind) with the motive of finding them guilty of violating my standards or convictions.

I have become _____.

"I" have set myself up to weigh the evidence and decide their guilt or innocence (_____).

I have become _____.

"I" have given myself the authority to condemn their words or actions and to pass a sentence of their unfitness in whatever area I have focused on.

I have become _____.

When we allow ourselves to judge, criticize and condemn, we have become the Prosecuting Attorney, Jury and Judge all rolled into one. It is not allowed in any court in our land and ***we would never want to be on the receiving end of that situation.*** Why do we presume to have been given the right do be that over someone else?

James 4:11-13; 5:9

11 My brethren, do not speak evil about or accuse one another. He that maligns (slanders) a brother or judges his brother is maligning and criticizing the Law and judging the Law. But if you judge the Law, you are not a practitioner of the Law but a censor and judge of it.

One only is the Lawgiver and Judge Who is able to save and to destroy (the One Who has absolute power of life and death). But you, who are you that you presume to pass judgment on your neighbor?

5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged...

What do we do about our past and when we slip up in this area?

1 John 1:9 says "If we freely admit that we have sinned and confess our sins (without excuses), He is faithful and just - true to His own nature and promises - (He is always consistent) and will forgive our sins – dismiss our lawlessness – and continuously cleanse us from all unrighteousness – everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought and action.

Judge my thoughts before I speak them
Judge my words before I speak them
Judge my actions before I do them

What do I not judge, criticize and condemn when it comes so naturally, is habit?

"Offer no opinion, point out no faults, receive no judgment"

1 Corinthians 13:4, 5b, 7b

"love endures long and is patient and kind...does not display itself haughtily...Love, God's love in us, does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking: it is not touchy or fretful or resentful: it takes no account of the evil done to it, pays no attention to a suffered wrong....is ever ready to believe the best of every person...

Why? 1 Cor. 12:27...You collectively are Christ's Body and individually you are members of it, each part severally and distinct with each with his own place and function.

(Judge, Jury, and Prosecuting Attorney) drop the case...(man who owed little to man who owed much) open/shut case...they are wrong, have sinned....Jesus-our Defense Attorney ... never lost a case...steps up to present His case for the plaintiff saying, there is one bit of evidence not presented here. This is a case of Double Jeopardy. If you judge me in the court of public opinion to judge, criticize and condemn me, then you are committing Double Jeopardy, because I have already been tried and found guilty, condemned and sentenced to death. But, as with you, Jesus stepped up to the bench, approaching the Eternal Judge of the universe and asked for pardon. The Righteous, Eternal replied, "There must be recompense, a price paid for the sins of this person in order for justice to be satisfied."

Jesus, considered then replied, "I will serve the full sentence in his stead."

"There is no deal, no possibility of parole, You understand this?

Yes, I do, Jesus replied as. "As a matter of fact, I would like for you to clear Your entire docket and no matter who it is, what crime they have committed, great or small, I will serve all of their sentences.

MOTIVE: An emotion or desire that causes a person to act; a driving power arising from personal temperament; a stimulus to action