

Christmas at Grace Chapel: Trusting Our Better Judgement

James 4:11-12

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40 Word Summary: No one likes to be judged, yet we all judge each other all the time. From the type of shoes a person wears to the actions they take, we often have an opinion about other people. When are our opinions out of line? When do we move from discerning something to judging someone? In this message we will unpack the role judgement is to play in the life of every Christian.

1. To speak against your brother or sister in Christ is to speak against your Father in heaven. – v. 11
 - What does it mean to speak “against” a brother or sister? Personalize it! How have you done that during the past week?
 - How has speaking against your brother or sister caused you to speak against your heavenly Father? What other scriptures can you find to support the fact this?
 - How does this relate to our Discipleship Fingerprint of “Christ’s Supremacy”?
2. To act as a judge is the opposite of living out God’s will. – v 11
 - Does this mean we can’t point out others’ sins? Why/Why not? What is the difference between “speaking against” (judging) and proper correction? (Hint: think about possible motivation.)
 - What does judging others tell us about those who are doing the judging vs. those who they are judging? (Hint: It’s a heart issue). Look up these scriptures, what do they have to say about this? Matthew 10:28. Romans 14:4. Matthew 7:1
3. Leave judging up to the one True Judge. – v 12.
 - What kind of attitude show we have about judging?
 - How do we balance confronting people with their sin and the fact that God is THE one True Judge? (Use what God said, not our own thoughts/opinions.)
 - Many individuals will say that Christians are judgmental and intolerant. They give the example of Jesus dealing with the adulterous women as an example of that we should be tolerant. Do they have a point? How do we deal with that in light of our Discipleship Fingerprint of “Biblical Authority”?

Apply:

1. Who have you judged, in the past, and need to apologize to? Have you apologized and repented to your heavenly Father?
2. **Memorize:** Matt. 7:3-5 (or just v. 5 if you need a shorter verse to memorize).
3. Ask a friend or your group to hold you accountable to not be so critical and/or judgmental. Have them check in with you weekly.
4. Read James 4:13-17 to prepare for next week’s message.