

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great in Power, This is Amazing Grace, Joy to the World, You are God Alone, Mighty to Save

WELCOME

We are surrounded by people who are imperfect (all of us are) and our tendency is to get irritated when they rub us the wrong way. It is much easier to judge them according to our own very strict standards rather than show them grace.

In what areas do you usually judge people (e.g., appearance, decisions, etc.)?

WORD

(You may also choose to celebrate the Lord's Supper in your small group before you proceed to the WORD part. Use 1 **Corinthians 11:25-26** as your Bible reading and guide for this portion).

MATTHEW 7:1-6

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶"Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

DO NOT JUDGE ACCORDING TO YOUR STANDARDS

Human nature is such that we like to criticize others based on our own standards.

In **Luke 18:9-12**, we read a parable used by Jesus to speak to those who looked upon themselves as righteous and looked down on others whom they judged as "sinners". It is about a Pharisee whose standard of righteousness is his external behavior (fasting, giving tithes) and yet treat other people unlike him with contempt. This is what can be called as self-righteousness.

CONFRONT SIN, RESTORE THE SINNER

Jesus forbids us to judge by appearance (**John 7:24**). But he is not saying that we are no longer to judge between sin and righteousness. In fact, **Matthew 18:15-16** tells us to call our brother's attention when he sins against you. Not to condemn, but to restore relationship with each other. Even if there is no guarantee that the one who sinned will repent, we should love them enough that we are willing to risk our friendship and talk face-to-face with the offending party.

Jesus outlines for us how we can judge sin and at the same time show grace to a sinning brother: Show him

his fault in private. If he listens to your rebuke, restoration takes place between you and him. However, if he refuses to listen and there is no repentance, bring in at least two other witnesses and talk to him again regarding his sin. Remember, when we confront sin or a perceived wrongdoing in others:

1. Do not be hasty (**James 1:19**)
2. Do not judge motives (**2 Samuel 10:1-3**)
3. Do not play God.
4. Judge yourself first (**Matthew 7:3-5**)

DO NOT FORCE PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH

Galatians 6:1 tells us that "even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted." While is nothing wrong with wanting to help others get rid of sin and be restored to fellowship with God and others, not everyone wants to be helped. We are to exercise discernment. We are to recognize people's sin for what it is but we are not to "ram down the truth into their throats". Instead, we are to be gentle in our rebuke and put ourselves first in their shoes before making any conclusions. We are to treat others the way we want to be treated (**Matthew 7:7, 12**).

WORD (cont'd)

However, be careful that we ourselves do not fall into the trap of the same sin that we rebuke in others.

Not forcing truth on people is the same principle we need to remember when sharing the gospel. Some will recognize the priceless value of Christ's offer of salvation, but some will reject our message over and over again (**Matthew 7:6**, **2 Peter 2:21-22**, **Proverbs 9:7-8**).

LET GOD BE THE FINAL JUDGE

In the end, we are to respect how people respond to the truth. Let God be the final judge. Our role is to pray for people and not to condemn them — even those we consider as the worst of sinners. Our part is to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ everyday so that we will not fall into sin's deception

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Judge Not.** When was the last time you judged others based on your own standards of "righteousness" (or when was the last time you felt judged)? Who are the people that you are most prone to judge?
- 2. God is the Righteous Judge.** Why do you think it is hard for people to "let God be God" and leave the judgement to Him?
- 3. I Will.** Is there someone in your life that has sinned against you whom you need to confront and restore relationship with? What do you need to do to make this happen? Do you need to repent from a judgmental attitude?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

This week, pray more and stop judging others around you — family, friends, co-workers or leaders, etc.. Show that you care by encouraging others to listen to God's truth. Invite someone to attend Dgroup with you, or join you for next week's Sunday service. Share some easy to understand Bible verses to others through social media, or better still, in face-to-face conversations with others and tell them how you have applied God's word in your own life situation.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

and develop a hardened heart (**Hebrews 3:13**). Let us stop judging one another, especially in the Body of Christ, based on our own standards of right or wrong (**Romans 14:1-6**). Instead, let us focus on obeying what we read in the Bible, being careful to listen to the Holy Spirit when he rebukes or corrects us. Finally, let us leave the final judgment to God alone because each one will give an account to Him for what we have done in this life (**Romans 14:10**). Let us take **1 Corinthians 4:5** to heart and obey by the power of the Holy Spirit: "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."