

## Myth #4: *Christians Shouldn't Judge*

The fourth in the series:

*Urban Myths: Debunking Christian Clichés*

June 12 & 13, 2010

### 1. Jesus and judging others

•*What he said:*

•*What he meant:*

•*What he modeled:*

### 2. An important distinction

•*We \_\_\_\_\_ those who claim to be Christians according to Christian standards.*

•*We \_\_\_\_\_ those who don't claim to be Christians according to Christian standards.*

Sum: *Expect \_\_\_\_\_ to match \_\_\_\_\_.*

### 3. The underlying issues

•The philosophical root to our reluctance to make judgments:

*We \_\_\_\_\_ absolute \_\_\_\_\_ and slip into moral relativism.*

•The psychological root to our reluctance to make judgments:

*We are afraid of appearing hypocritical so we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ others.*

•The sociological root to our reluctance to make judgments:

*We find it easier to \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ than to live in community.*

Sum: *Since right and wrong are not antiquated ideas but have been defined by God, let's \_\_\_\_\_ and take the risk to \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ to do the same.*

## Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Think of the last time you heard someone say, "Don't judge me." Maybe you said it yourself. What is generally behind this plea?
2. Read the first few verses in Matt. 7, then go on to read the entire chapter. Put it all together. Are we never to make moral judgments? How could we live if this were the case?
3. What did Jesus mean by what he taught about judging others? What did he practice?
4. Read 1 Cor. 5:1-13. Who are we to hold accountable to Christian standards and who are we not to judge? Why is there this distinction?
5. Do you see evidence that Christians are slipping with our society into moral relativism? What do we need to remember and do in order to not make this mistake?
6. To see some extreme examples of the importance of making moral judgments, read Gal. 1:6-10; 2:11-21 and 2 Tim. 2:23-26. Paul tells it like it is. Is this okay?
7. There is a complicated section of Romans (14:1-15:7) that mentions judging others several times. For advanced study, figure out what is going on in that passage.
8. Is the fear of hypocrisy a good reason to excuse you from any responsibility to offer correction and guidance to those who are sliding off track in life? What should we do about our hypocrisy?
9. What does Christian community offer to those who are wandering out of bounds? Are we willing to offer it?

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• *What he said:*

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### 2. An important distinction

• We should judge those who claim to be Christians according to Christian standards.

• We should not judge those who don't claim to be Christians according to Christian standards.

Sum: Expect behavior to match belief.

### 3. The underlying issues

• The philosophical root to our reluctance to make judgments:

We reject absolute standards and slip into moral relativism.

• The psychological root to our reluctance to make judgments:

We are afraid of appearing hypocritical so we refuse to help others.

• The sociological root to our reluctance to make judgments:

We find it easier to retreat into isolation than to live in community.

Sum: Since right and wrong are not antiquated ideas but have been defined by God, let's live right and take the risk to call other Christians to do the same.