

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



1. Read Romans 2:1-29. What two reasons are given in this passage that tell us we do not have the right to judge anyone?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. As humans, what do we judge others based on? What are we unable to judge about another person? Does the outward behavior of a person always match what is true about them spiritually on the inside? Is your outward behavior ever different from your spiritual condition on the inside as a Christian? Read Galatians 5:16,17. Why does this happen? Does it mean you are not saved when this happens?
3. According to Pastor Rick, what are the five reasons we judge others? Have you ever been guilty of any of these? Which ones?
4. Pastor Rick said people who act like they are better than others know in their heart that they are not, do you think this is generally true? What could this reveal about the motive people have for being judgmental? Have you ever known people like this? Read Isaiah 2:11,12. What is the sin that is at the root of being judgmental and what is God going to do to these people?
5. What did Pastor Rick say we should not do regarding those who judge us and what should we do instead? Read Hebrews 10:30,31. How does what these verses say help us to respond to these people the way God wants us to? What are we actually doing when we judge others? Read Matthew 7:1-5. What happens to us when we judge others?
6. Read James 2:12,13. According to this passage, what are we to extend to others instead of judgment? What is mercy? If you are not merciful, what happens? Do you want God to extend mercy to you in your life?

ANSWERS

1. *The reasons we are not to judge others is: a. God is the only one who has the right to judge and b. We are just as guilty of breaking God's law as anyone else.*
2. *We judge others by their outward behavior. We cannot judge a person's heart or motivation because only God can see those things in a person. Our outward behavior many times does not match the relationship we have with God when we allow our sinful nature to control us and do not yield to the Holy Spirit. If does not mean that you are unsaved, it simply means that you are not making the right decisions in your life.*
3. *The five reasons are: a. We are religious but not righteous; b. We reject the fact that God will judge everyone; c. We reduce our sins and magnify the sins of others; d. We resist God's kindness and refrain from offering kindness to anyone we deem unworthy; and e. We refuse to repent before God.*
4. *Many times people will judge the sin of others so that they do not have to focus on their own sin and to make them feel better about themselves. It is easier to blow out someone else's light than to make our own shine brighter. The sin that judgmental people are guilty of which is usually at the root of all sinful actions is pride. Isaiah 2 says that God will judge the proud and humble them.*
5. *We should not take it personally but instead look beyond their hurtful words to their hurting hearts and help God heal their hearts. Hebrews 10 tells us that God will judge everyone which frees us to not judge them but to help them instead. When we judge others, we are making ourselves God and usurping His authority to be the judge. Matthew 7 tells us that if we do this, then we invite God's judgement into our lives.*
6. *Instead of judging others, we should extend mercy to them which means to treat them in a way that they do not deserve to be treated. If we want mercy from God when we make mistakes , we must be merciful to those who judge us. God extends unconditional mercy to us by dying for our sins and giving us eternal life when we trust Jesus as our savior. We deserve to go to hell. Whenever we sin, God would have every right to take our lives from us at any time yet he does not.*