

Sermon Study Guide – October 28th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "God Wants a Church that Judges, but isn't Judgmental"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Do people generally like churches that judge or don't judge? What do people think of when they think of a church "judging"?
- ◆ In what positive light does today's theme paint judging? In what way does God judge us that actually helps us? In what way might we judge to *help* others?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

How does today's sermon show you how God wants you to live your life? (i.e. What good works does this motivate us to do?)

Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. How does God ask his people to judge in our sermon text? How is it not in a judgmental way, but for the best interest of others?
2. How might a desire not to be judgmental be one we take too far?
3. How'd Jesus find perfect balance between judging, but not being judgmental? Is his example the answer to our finding this balance?
4. What did Jesus do to change the way we look at or “do” judging?
5. In what way(s) will it be hard to judge as God wants?
6. Does God want his church to judge “hot button” sins like abortion or homosexuality? (*Be sure to include “why” and “how” in your answer.*)

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ How might today's topic of proper judging help to explain certain church practices of... close communion?... withholding communion from the unrepentant?... prayer fellowship?... Excommunication?
- ◆ When we have to judge the sin of another... what can we learn from God about how we should go about this process? When does God show “firmness” to us in his word? When does he show gentleness?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Ez. 33:7-11, Gal. 2:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Wednesday: Romans 2:1-15

Thursday: 1 Timothy 5

Friday: Matthew 7

Saturday: *review* Matt. 18:15-20