

Dear Friends and Family,

Don't judge me!
Is this even possible?
Consider the definition of judge:
forming an opinion or conclusion about something.

The truth is, it's impossible **not** to judge.
We all formulate many various opinions throughout any given day.

Most often, when someone proclaims, "don't judge me"
It's because they know they are doing something morally wrong,
but do not want to be held accountable.

Paul opened the letter to the Romans by stating that sin had a naturally increasing nature.
That eventually, if we continue in sin, God gives us over to our sinful nature.
He then transitions to the idea of judgment.

Pastor's Point of View

The big question: **What does it mean to judge one another?**

Day 1 - READ Romans 2:1-3

1. What is Paul actually saying in verse 1? Does he say not to judge OR that when we judge we need to understand that we are also guilty?
2. Verse 2 clarifies the issue some. What does Paul say about God's judgement? Upon whom does it fall?
3. Paul's hypothetical question in verse 3 makes it plain that we are **all** under **God's** judgement.

Day 2 - READ Romans 2:4-8

1. What does verse 4 tell us clearly about God's judgement?
2. Even while God is patient with us, we are stubborn and unrepentant. Paul is expertly making the case FOR us holding one another accountable not against.
3. Paul has stated clearly up to this point that we will **all** be judged by God. He goes on to explain that none of us can escape it, we are all guilty of the same sin. Knowing that sin has an increasing propensity, we **must** hold one another accountable.
4. Study verse 7. Those who do good will receive what?
5. Study verse 8. Those who practice unrighteousness will receive what?
6. Compare verse 7 & 8. If we know what will be received by those who practice unrighteousness, what should our response be? Do we ignore it on the premise of "don't judge"? Or do we intervene in Godly kindness with truth and love?

Day 3 - READ Romans 2:9-11

1. Note the definite article here. There WILL be tribulation for all.
2. Evil begets tribulation and distress. God is perfectly just and cannot be in the presence of sin.
3. Similarly, glory and honor and peace will be given to all who do good.
4. It's important to note here that this is not because we earn these things.
5. It is because we are given them, when we are judged and found covered by the gospel.

Day 4 - READ Romans 2:12-16

1. Focus here on verse 16. On what basis does Paul say we will be judged?
2. Remember from last week, what is the Gospel?
3. Where does the Gospel apply in this passage?
4. There are some hard passages of scripture to read here. What is verse 12 saying about those who have never heard the Gospel?
5. What do verses 14 and 15 tell us about those who never hear the Gospel?
6. According to verse 13 who will be justified before God?

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another. - Romans 15:14

Friends, as believers, we should be in constant concern for those who do not know Christ. We know the end of the story. We know who will be victorious. We know our eternity. We know God's judgement and upon what it will be based. More than ever, in times of uncertainty, people seek out God. Be a beacon of hope. Share the truth of the good news of Christ. Share about eternity. Now is not the time to shy away, but instead, to boldly proclaim the hope you have in Christ.

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”
Hebrews 6:19

Peace be with you all!
Pastor Matt

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message. “May the LORD bless you and keep, may He make His face shine upon you.” Numbers 6:24-25

Dr. Matthew Long

Senior Pastor

[FBC of Havelock](#)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*