

GIVE UP JUDGMENTS

- A. Introduction: For a number of weeks we have been dealing with sinful attitudes which keep Christians in bondage. In the last few lessons we have been focusing on judging others.
1. Judging, the kind of judging which can be a sinful attitude, is basically finding fault with others.
 - a. We all do it. We can't avoid doing it. In some cases, we have to do it. Nowhere does the Bible tell us not to judge. Rather, it tells us how to judge.
 - b. Matt 7:1,2; Luke 6:36-38--Jesus tells us that what we give out in judgment we will get back, not from God, but from other people -- and we will get more than we give.
 2. We have been discussing a type of judgment which brings a lot of emotional pain into the lives of many Christians.
 - a. We make judgments or determinations about why people do what they do. We then respond to them not based on what they did, but based on why we think they did what they did.
 - b. Because we do not really know why they did what they did (we cannot know why), our response to them is often completely inappropriate, bringing more pain and consequences to our life.
 - c. Identifying what someone did is an observation. Determining why he did it is a judgment. "The tone of his voice was harsh" is an observation. "He spoke to me that way because he doesn't like me" is a judgment.
 3. There are many reasons why we are prone to judge people in this manner.
 - a. We mistakenly assume people do what they do for the same reasons we do what we do.
 - b. We tend to think that the way we do things or see things is the right way. But, it isn't necessarily the right way or even the wrong way. It's just the way we see it, the way we do it. Prov 16:2; 21:2
 - c. Our flesh wants to rule over others. One way we rule over others is by exalting ourselves. One way we elevate ourselves is by finding fault with others.
 4. We want to take one more lesson and deal further with these types of judgment before we move on to other types of judgment.
- B. We must understand that we all see life from a distorted perspective. We view the world through perceptions which were largely formed when we were children.
1. That means your perception of life was formed by the judgments of a five year old with a sin nature who was totally focused on self.
 - a. We judged everything in the light of what it meant to us. We thought people did what they did because of us.
 1. If people told us we were ugly, stupid, or worthless, we accepted their judgment as accurate, because, as self focused creatures, we thought it was about us. As children, we didn't realize that they did what they did because of them.
 2. Even if our parents were loving and affirming, they occasionally made us go to bed when we didn't want to, and our self focused little natures said they did it because they didn't love us or because they were mean people.
 - b. If I judge every action and event as if it were about me, it does become about me in terms of the anger and pain I feel.
 1. The fact that someone unconsciously overlooks me becomes an offense because I judge them: They disrespected me. They did that on purpose. They don't like me.
 2. The pain comes not because of an intentional act on their part, but because of a judgment on my part.
 3. What could have been a momentary pain becomes prolonged suffering because of judgment.

2. But, there is more to it than that. We make judgments as children. We make determinations about why people do what they do. In doing so, we can unintentionally activate impartial laws.
 - a. Luke 6:36-38 Jesus said that whatever we give out in judgment will come back to us. That is an impartial law.
 1. The law of gravity is an impartial law. If a two year old violates the law, the consequence is the same as if a twenty year old violates the law.
 2. Gal 6:7--Reaping and sowing is an impartial law. What you sow you reap.
 - b. Deut 5:16--The Law says that life will go well if you honor your parents. In any area where we judge or dishonor our parents, life will not go well for us.
 3. Much of the emotional pain we experience as adults is actually the fruit of judgments we made as children.
 - a. Before we were old enough to know right from wrong, we had an active sin nature and we responded to life sinfully.
 - b. Because we were not yet capable of mentally distinguishing right from wrong, we were not held morally responsible for our choices. None the less, we activated the impartial law of sowing and reaping.
 - c. We reacted sinfully to our parents and set into motion the law of sowing and reaping, the law of getting back in judgment what we gave out and more.
 - d. By saying this, we are not blaming a two year old for a sinful reaction to life. We are explaining life in a sin cursed earth. We can unintentionally activate impartial laws as children.
 4. When we judged our parents as children, the law decreed: What you give out, you get back -- even if your judgment of your parents was accurate.
 - a. When we accuse someone of wrong doing (even rightly accuse them), we are actually crying out for justice and payment or punishment to them. In doing so, we step back into a legal system which has the power to demand justice and payment for our sins as well as the other guy's sin.
 1. If you demand justice and payment for wrongs done by others, then you will be dealt with according to the same measure -- not by God, but by the Law and by Satan. Satan, as the accuser of the brethren, is a master legalist. Rev 12:10
 2. Unless there is forgiveness on the part of the child the law of retribution is in operation. Prov 20:20
 3. The only place of safety is in the realm of mercy and grace. James 2:13--For he who shows no mercy will incur judgment without mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment. (Weymouth)
 - b. This is hard for us to understand because we want to attach blame to impartial laws. It doesn't seem fair that a child should reap in adulthood the consequences of having bitter, abusive parents. But, life in a sin cursed earth is not fair.
- C. Perhaps the best way to explain this is to give some examples.
1. A young boy is embarrassed by the fact that his mother is overweight and he judges her, condemns her as guilty.
 - a. As an adult, he reaps obesity. His judgments draw him to a woman likely to gain weight. He then pushes her to gain weight by constantly harping about her weight.
 - b. He has a legal requirement to reap obesity because he judged it in his mother.
 2. A woman who grows up with an alcoholic father and judges him for it ends up married to a man who eventually becomes an alcoholic (or a weak father or a poor provider or whatever her father was). She has a legal requirement to reap what she judged in her father.
 - a. In saying these things we are not blaming the woman for the alcoholism of her husband. He is

fully responsible before God.

- b. What we are saying is that where there is fruit, there is a root. Repeated patterns of negative behavior and failures in adulthood, especially in the area of relationships, could be the fruit of a root of judgment and unforgiveness in childhood.
 3. Sometimes as children we make decrees which take hold of us on a subconscious level. Then, every part of our being goes to work to bring about our perception of reality.
 - a. A child feels rejected and decrees: People always reject you.
 1. By doing so, they judge all people. The judgment they then reap is people rejecting them.
 2. Their judgment becomes a self fulfilling prophecy as they unconsciously manipulate people until people do the very thing that proves the judgment right. The one who has been rejected and judged people for it unconsciously pushes people to reject them, thus proving themselves right: I knew this would happen. People always rejects you.
 - b. A parent treats a child like a bother. The child judges the parent for not giving them affection and decrees: No one really cares about me. People are not loving.
 1. That person grows up having difficulty receiving love and affection from others.
 2. He unconsciously rejects affection from other people, pushes them away, stops them from being affectionate, and his childhood judgment is affirmed. Self is proved right.
 - c. A child hears his parents fighting and decrees:
 1. I won't get involved with people anymore so they can't hurt me. That child becomes an emotionally detached adult.
 2. I'll control everything around me so this kind of thing can't happen to me again. That child becomes a controlling, manipulative adult.
 4. Before we are conscious of right and wrong, we respond to life sinfully by judging others.
 - a. Reactions to events in childhood cause behavior adaptations which become habits, which become our automatic responses to life. They are such a part of us that they become the basis on which we live and respond to life. But, they are based on the misperceptions of a child.
 - b. And, a judgment made in childhood can become a bitter root that defiles many. Heb 12:15
- D. Conclusion: How do we deal with this type of judging? How do we get victory in these areas?
1. We must recognize that all of us have judged and do judge others sinfully. All of us have self focused flesh that works to protect self, exalt self, prove self right.
 - a. When we talk about things done in childhood, you must realize that people can go overboard looking for things in themselves and their childhood. We are fascinated with ourselves and are naturally attracted to anything that keeps us focused on self -- even if it is looking for bad stuff!!
 - b. We all made sinful judgments as children. Many of us let them go as we matured and were better able to process the events of life. However, some of us did not let them go, but may not be consciously aware of unforgiveness we still harbor against adults in our childhood (particularly our parents).
 - c. Where there is fruit, there is a root. If you have a repeating problem as an adult, the problem may stem from a judgment or a decree you made as a child, activating the impartial law of sowing and reaping. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify any such issues.
 2. We have to release people from past judgments.
 - a. Recognize that we really don't know why the people in our past did the hurtful things they did.
 1. Their actions probably had little to do with us. Yet, we judged them. We said they did what they did because: They didn't really love me. I was unlovable. I was a bad person.
 2. Ask God to forgive you for judging them. Out loud, release them from that judgment.

- b. Once you forgive, pray a blessing for those who wounded or failed you. I Pet 3:8-10--(v9) blessing -- praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection". (Amp)
- 3. If you have made some type of sweeping decree about life and people which is affecting how you deal with life, renounce it.
 - a. Ask God to help you see life the way it really is, not the way a five year old saw it.
 - b. Rom 12:2--Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
- 4. God made man to live with a sense of dignity and worth. Heb 2:6-8--The phrase "glory and honor" means dignity and worth.
 - a.. That sense of self worth comes out of relationship with God -- out of the knowledge that we are sons of God made in the image of God, fully acceptable to God, fulfilling our destiny by expressing the glory of God.
 - b. When we don't know we have value to God we try to gain value else where. One way we do it is by exalting self through judgments. The greater our need for self worth, the more sensitive we are to the actions of others. We use the actions of others to gauge and determine our self worth.
 - c. Your sense of value is determined either by how you see yourself in Jesus or how you see yourself in relation to others.
 - 1. If you live reacting to people and their treatment of you, you are not in control because your choices are based on the actions of others. If Jesus is not the one to whom you respond in every area of your life, He does not have full rulership.
 - 2. When your sense of self worth comes from God, other people's actions no longer control your emotional life.
- 5. Don't assume you know why people do what they do.
 - a. Become conscious of what you are telling yourself about people and ask yourself: Is this a fact or is this a judgment? Is this an observation or a judgment? Is this something I actually know or is this something I think I know.
 - b. I don't want to be controlled by what I think people think.
- 6. If someone truly harms you or wrongs you, forgive them. Give up the right to get revenge and pay them back.
 - a. Sometimes we mistakenly think that if we don't pay people back or don't stand up for ourselves, we'll become door mats.
 - b. But, remember, Jesus said whatever we give out to people we'll get back -- only more so. If you want to live in emotional freedom, you must stop judging people in the manner we have discussed these last few weeks.
- 7. Walking in love does not make you a door mat. Jesus walked in perfect love when He was on this earth, and no one manipulated Him, controlled Him, or took advantage of Him. As He is in this world, so are we.