



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Prejudice

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 9

November 8, 2020

Bottom Line: Judge not does not mean care not.

Icebreaker: What is a food you refused to try because of how it looked? How would you end this sentence: "I just don't understand how anyone can think..." Have you had an experience where something turned out exactly the opposite of what you imagined? Share.

Key Verse: *Do not judge others and you will not be judged.* Matthew 7:1

A layman's definition of prejudice is forming an opinion about someone or something without gathering all the facts. We as a people can do it all the time. Whether it's the color of someone's skin, the political party, age difference, gender, occupation, or anything else, we as humans can make a judgment on just about anything with only a small portion of the facts. There is no room for any of that in the Kingdom of God. God is completely just and always has all the facts. God looks at the heart, not appearance. While God does say we are to have healthy judgment, that involves recognizing our own issues. **There are several reasons why we judge others inappropriately, including self-righteousness or pride:** We judge others to feel better about what we are doing. It's a self-importance issue. **Fear:** We judge because something about this person feels like a threat to us, so we minimize them to feel less threatened. **Envy:** We feel bitter about their advantages, success, possessions, etc., and it leads to resentment. **Control:** We feel the need to exert influence over others. Causing them to doubt themselves seems to help us. **Bias:** Sometimes you are shaped by an environment that didn't have the whole picture, and that perspective is the way you judge the world. Jesus warned us not to judge others while ignoring our own issues. Jesus told us to **take a good look at ourselves first.** He said a hypocrite is a person who is more concerned about the flaws in another person's life than in their own. He said when we are tempted to dive into someone else's stuff, **get a clearer picture.** Examine yourself. Take the plank out of your own eye. **Make a humble judgment.** Leverage what God has done in you and for you for the sake of others. **How will we respond?** We can be prideful and just judge others and then write them off. We can be indifferent and just walk away. But Jesus' love does not permit that. We can be stubborn—if we are confronted we think no one has a right to do that. OR we can be humble. We can look at our own issues and encourage others to do the same. Only God has all the answers. God wants to help us. There is true life and freedom when we respond in our hearts with honesty and humility. He will help us see past the prejudices and appearances to humbly love and serve.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Twenty years ago, John 3:16 was the most frequently quoted Scripture in the U.S. Today it is Matthew 7:1. Why do you think? What commentary does that make on our culture?

Jesus said a hypocrite is a person who is more concerned about the flaws in another person's life than in their own. Reflect and discuss.

Consider the reasons people typically judge. Which one is most likely for you? How did your upbringing create an automatic bias in you against some people/things/choices?

Maybe what is bothering you so much about another person is actually true about you. Reflect and discuss.

Jesus tells us we have enough to worry about with our own lives without inspecting others. What generally tempts you to "dive into someone else's stuff?"

How does being in a small group help you get the "plank" out of your own eye?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Jesus said the way we judge is the way we will be judged. So how do you want to be judged? All of us prefer to be accepted rather than judged. But if we are judged, we want to be judged with kindness and understanding. Why do you think we can so easily withhold that from others?

How can you know when God wants you to speak to someone whose life is going the wrong way? How do you do it with Jesus' love and self-awareness?

What is the proper response when we discover we have judged someone without all the facts?

Honestly—how is my humility? Am I humble enough to receive correction and admonishment from others? Who do I consistently welcome to do so?

We all have bias and prejudice in some way. Where do you recognize your prejudice? What are you going to do about it?

NEXT STEPS

1. Get an accurate picture of yourself and your own issues before criticizing others.
2. Humbly consider how God can use what He has done for and given you to leverage for others.
3. Ask God to help you have the willingness to humbly give correction when needed and to receive it.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Judge not does not mean care not.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 John 16:7

Tuesday: Galatians 3:28

Wednesday: Acts 10:34-35

Thursday: 1 John 4:20

Friday: John 13:34; Mark 12:31

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)