

**blind faith?**  
**“What About Judgmentalism?”**  
**July 10, 2011**

**Theme Verse:** *In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** (apologetic) to everyone who asks you to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.* 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

**A. Question: Why are Christians so judgmental?**

**Judgment:** pronouncing a verdict & sentence.

*Being judgmental keeps nonbelievers AND believers away from Christ's Church!*

**B. MESSAGE: Show Mercy. Leave Judgment to Jesus!**

**Mercy:** compassionate act of pardon.

**John 8:1-11** Jesus pardons woman caught in adultery.

**C. TEXT: Luke 6:36-45**

1. **God is a Merciful Father – (36)**
  - a. Ephes. 2:4 “God, who is rich in mercy...”
2. **Be Merciful (36)** Command not suggestion
  - a. **James 2:** <sup>12</sup>Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup>because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. **Mercy triumphs over judgment!**
3. **Do not Judge or Condemn the Person (37)**
  - a. Our Judgment elevates us to the position of Jesus. James 4:12
  - b. Our judgment leads us to **PUNISH** the sinner!
  - c. Our Judgment leads us to label people and strip them of their God-given dignity.
4. **Forgive (37)**
  - a. Sin is not about “issues” to campaign against but about people whom God loves!

5. **Boomerang Judgment (38) – Measurement**
  - a. Sowing and Reaping principle – Gal. 6
6. **Beware of Blind Spots:**
  - a. **Who’s your teacher? (39)**
  - b. **Log Syndrome (41-42)** – Looking for faults:
    - i. That’s all you will see.
    - ii. You won’t see your own.
    - iii. Others will only see yours.
  - c. **Examine Yourself First (42b)** – Deal with your “log” first BEFORE confronting a speck.
    - i. PRAY: “Search me oh God and know my heart” before confronting.
    - ii. CONFRONT in love and mercy.
7. **Judge the “Fruit” not the person (43-44)**
  - a. “Fruit” is evident to all.
  - b. Projection: Human tendency to “FEEL” judged by others when we are convicted of sin.
8. **Litmus test – Our WORDS reveal our hearts!! (45)**
  - a. **Luke 18:13** *God be merciful to me a sinner.*

**D. Lordship: Learn Mercy (46)** “Why do you call me Lord and not do what I say?”

1. **Matthew 9:13** *But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

**E. Application Prayer:** *In what areas am I being judgmental? Forgive me Lord, and teach me to respond in compassion and mercy. Show me how to act justly without judging.*

**Additional Resources:**

*10 Most Common Objections to Christianity* by Alex McFarland  
*Letters From A Skeptic* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd  
*When Skeptics Ask* by Norman L. Geisler  
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis