

# AUTOPSY • Week 3: Autopsying Others

## Daily Briefing • Day 1 of 5 • Agreeing with God Is Not Judgmental

---

### WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

*Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.*

#### **3 John 11**

*Sunday's message asked how to learn from others' outcomes without becoming judgmental. Today we build the theological foundation that makes the rest of this week possible. You can watch or listen to the sermon at [1mso.church](http://1mso.church) or on the One Missoula app.*

---

### OPENING PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, You do not need me to judge anything because You have already judged it. Help me to accept Your authority without trying to overrule it. Guard my heart against arrogance, pride, and condescension as I try to grow from my failures and the failures of others. Lord, keep me from looking down on others, knowing I can end up in the exact same place. I too have failed to perfectly live out Your calling and commandments. Give me mercy, wisdom, and humility. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

---

### TODAY'S TEACHING

The most popular moral rule in modern American culture is simple: do not judge. Nobody seems to notice that applying that rule requires a judgment. The moment you say judging is wrong, you have judged something. It's a self-defeating maneuver. The question has never been whether you will make moral distinctions. Every person makes them constantly, and usually without thinking about what they're doing. The question is always which standard you are using when you do.

God has not left moral categories up to personal interpretation. He has already spoken. Third John 11 is explicit: imitate good, not evil. As the ultimate judge of the entire universe, God has already categorized what falls into each bucket. When you observe that someone's beliefs and behaviors violate God's design, you are not rendering a verdict; you are agreeing with one that has already been rendered. That is not arrogance. That is humility. Humility before God is frequently interpreted as arrogance by those in rebellion against Him.

This week we are looking at others' outcomes and tracing upstream to the beliefs and behaviors that produced them. That observation practice is not a human invention. First Corinthians 10:5-11 says that Israel's failures were written down for our instruction. Proverbs 24:30-34 shows a writer walking past a field, observing, and extracting a lesson. God preserved both of those as formation tools. It is not arrogant to do what God tells you to do. The arrogance runs the other direction: deciding that your assessment of what is acceptable overrides His.

---

### READ & MEDITATE

#### **3 John 11**

*"Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God."*

#### **Isaiah 5:20**

*"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"*

#### **Romans 1:18-20**

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has*

*shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”*

Read 3 John 11 and notice that God does not avoid categorizing what others do. He names two categories and tells you to imitate one and avoid the other. Then read Isaiah 5:20 and pay attention to what God says about reversing those two categories. Then read Romans 1:18-20 and ask what God says people are actively doing with the truth they already have.

---

REFLECT

Every person who says “do not judge” has just made a moral judgment. The statement presupposes a standard: that judging is wrong. That is itself a judgment.

When you hear someone say “don’t judge,” what do they usually mean? What standard are they using to conclude that judging is wrong?

---

The question is never whether to make moral distinctions. Everyone makes them constantly. The question is which standard is doing the work when you do.

What standard have you been using most often when you evaluate whether something is acceptable or not? Where did that standard come from?

---

Third John 11 was written by the apostle John to a man named Gaius, a church leader he trusted. In just one verse, John uses the words “evil” and “good” as already-settled categories and tells Gaius which one to imitate.

Fill in the blanks from 3 John 11:

“Beloved, do not imitate \_\_\_\_\_ but imitate \_\_\_\_\_. Whoever does \_\_\_\_\_ is from God; whoever does \_\_\_\_\_ has not seen God.” (3 John 11)\*

*\*These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

God has already placed things into those two categories. What does that tell you about the posture of a person who softens, qualifies, or rejects God’s categorization?

---

Isaiah 5:20 describes a specific kind of arrogance: not simply ignoring God’s categories but reversing them. Calling evil good and calling good evil. Isaiah was writing to Israel during a period of national moral drift, where that reversal had become normal and acceptable.

Where in our current culture do you see good being called “evil” or evil being called “good”? Give a specific example.

---

Where in your own thinking have you softened or quietly reversed what God has already declared? This might look like deciding that living together before marriage is a reasonable modern choice, that a small lie is justified when the situation calls for it, or that using anger to get what you want is just being assertive. Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

---

---

---

#### PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we’ve read, God’s ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

---

---

---

#### MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite 3 John 11 from memory:

---

---