



Lie #12: “God Doesn’t Judge Anyone (and Neither Should You)”

Introduction

1.) What do the following passages say about judging?

John 7:24 “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 Those who oppose [the Lord's servant] he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2.) Based on these passages how would you respond to the accusation: "You are just like the Pharisees—always judging! Who are you to tell me that my church isn't right or that what I'm doing is wrong? Don't you know that Jesus said, 'Don't judge!' "?

Judge for Yourself

1.) God does judge. What do the following passages say about judgment?

Psalms 9:8 "He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity."

John 12:47-48 "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."

Acts 17:31 "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

2.) What false ideas do people hold who think God does not judge at all?

3.) God tells us to make judgments out of love. What is at stake if one does not judge?

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

4.) How does Jesus demonstrate that God's delight is not catching people in their sins but forgiving them?

Matthew 18:15,18, 21-22 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ...¹⁸ I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ... ²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

5.) Jesus tells us to warn someone of their sin in progressive steps (personally→one or two others→to the congregation). Why? If Jesus expects that the admonishment by the entire church might have the greatest impact, why not just start with that?

6.) How did Jesus treat pagans and tax collectors? How does that shape the way you treat someone who has not repented of a sin?

Group Discussion

1.) Respond to the following people:

- “That church kicked me out!”
- “Haven’t you ever heard of ‘Love your neighbor as yourself?’ ”
- “This is my life! I don’t poke my nose into your life and judge you!”

2.) List some instances when judging is inappropriate.

3.) Of the many things to keep in mind when witnessing to someone who says, “Don’t judge,” what, in your opinion, is the most important? Explain.

4.) People who hold to this lie envision a utopia in the church and unity in diversity of moral opinion in society. How would (does) this concept of “no judging” play out practically in the church and our world?

Closing

Making Metaphors and Synthesizing Similes. Come up with an original metaphor or simile for the concept of failing to make judgments. “Failure to judge is (like) . . .