

PEACEMAKERS

Week 4: *Peace & Non-Judgement* (With special guests Issa Ebombolo & Rick Cober Bauman)

APPETIZER: When We SHOULD Divide

Occasions to divide...

- A Different Jesus (1 John 2:18-23; 2 John 7-11)
- A Different Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 1:8-9)
- An Abuse of Grace (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; Jude 3-7)
- A Divisive Disposition (Titus 3:10; 3 John 9-11; Jude 16)

Two kinds of judging...

1. Honest assessment, discernment, and disagreement.
2. God-like prosecution/condemnation over someone's inner self.

DINE IN: To Judge or Not to Judge

Matthew 7:1-6

Steps to Loving More and Judging Less...

1. RETHINK your position. (vv 1-2)
2. REFLECT on your own condition. (v 3)
3. REASON/Motivation is caregiving, not ego energizing. (v. 4)
4. REPENT of your own sin first, including your judgementalism. (v. 5)
5. RESPOND to their need. (v.5)

John 8:7, 15; 12:47; Matthew 13:28-30; Luke 6:37-38; Romans 2:1-5;
James 2:13; 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Genesis 1-3; 1 John 4:1

INTERVIEW WITH RICK & ISSA...

- MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) and Peacebuilding...
- Peace Clubs history and activity...
- How we can help...

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TAKE OUT: Serving From Below

In humility value others above yourselves,
not looking to your own interests but each of
you to the interests of the others.
(Philippians 2:3-4)

For more information...

- Read *The Non-Judgmental Christian*, by John Kuypers

NEXT WEEK: Peacemakers Part 5

We conclude our Peacemakers series with communion.
(Then in two weeks don't miss Dr. John Perkins!)

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you talked about your involvement in our new Peacemakers compassion campaign yet? Some home churches are having fund raisers, connecting with local businesses, or just challenging themselves to make as many Relief Kits as possible. What is your home church up to?
2. After reviewing Sunday's message talk about what stood out to you.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read the following passages: **Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:36-38; James 4:11-12; Philippians 2:3-4.**
 - a. EXPERIMENT: As you continue to talk about these passages, try to think highly of the others in your group. Try to live in the reality of Philippians 2:3-4. Try not to judge them about anything, but only esteem them highly.
 - b. What passage, verse, or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - c. Have you ever been involved in a **Matthew 7** splinter-removal process with someone, either removing or having it removed? (That is, have you ever helped someone realize and remove their own sin, or been helped by someone with your sin?) What went well? What went wrong? Talk about lessons learned.
 - d. Some prosperity preachers use **Luke 6:38** to teach that the more money we give the church the more money we will get back. (I wish!) What does the context say this is really about?
 - e. **James 4:12** says the opposite of being saved is being "destroyed" (also see **Matthew 10:28; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Romans 6:23**; etc). What is your current view of hell? A) Eternal Conscious Torment? B) Destruction/Death of the soul? C) Purgatorial chance to burn off sin before entering heaven? D) Other?
 - f. How can we obey **Philippians 2:3-4** without belittling ourselves and/or becoming a doormat in the process? Or is this question just an excuse we use to not even try?
 - g. How have you done with the experiment?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.

Quotes

Today's Message –
Part 4: Peace & Non-Judgement

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
and where there is injury, pardon.
~ Francis of Assisi

The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is bitterness.
- Martin Luther King Jr

I used to think that to be Christlike meant to be alienated and put off by the sin of others. But it's quite the opposite. *Refusing to be alienated and put off by the sin of others is what allows me to be Christlike.*
~ Brant Hansen

Jesus knows the law that operates in the heart of a fallen human being: I judge in my own favour. I take my own side. I'm an expert on your sins and flaws and, as a bonus, I know how to fix you. Jesus says, this is sheer blindness.
~ Matt Woodley

Being non-judgmental does not result in being a doormat. Being non-judgmental results in being calm, clear, and wise in your response, rather than continuing the satanic cycle of hate breeding hate.
~ John Kuypers

Disciples who develop critical, condemning attitudes as a pattern of life, have forced love out of their relationships with others.
~ Michael J. Wilkins

I can have peace of mind only when I forgive rather than judge.
~ Gerald Jampolsky

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.
But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?
~ James the brother of Jesus

Do not judge.
~ Jesus