



Chapter Eight – The Crabby World of Judgmentalism

Section 1

People who do wrong are often bothered when they are around those who do right.

There is a very real, but often ignored line between *righteous* and *unrighteous* judgment.

John 7:1-24

“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” John 7:24 (NASB)

A *righteous judgment* calls things as they are while seeking the welfare of those involved.

1 Timothy 1:3-6
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Righteous judgments are _____ for the health and well-being of any Christian organization.

Acts 20:28-32

To ignore sin *in the camp* is to leave open a door that allows wolves to feed among the sheep.

1 Corinthians 5
2 Corinthians 2:1-11

If we reward and promote those who are ungodly, we will frustrate and alienate those with a true passion for Christ.

Correction is absolutely necessary for the healthy function of any Christian organization, but how we go about that process is HUGE!

Matthew 18:15-20

“Brothers and sisters, if a person is discovered in some sin, you who are spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. Pay close attention to yourselves, so that you are not tempted too.” Galatians 6:1 (NET)



Luke 6:27-49

Righteous judgment is all about love.

Unrighteous judgment measures people by other people in order to assign value.

2 Corinthians 10:1-12

“For we don’t dare classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. But in measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves to themselves, they lack understanding.” 2 Corinthians 10:12 (HCSB)

Constantly judging others produces in us a _____.

Those who meet certain standards can easily begin to look down their noses at others.

Those who are unsuccessful respond by:

1. Slinking into the shadows. They’ll never measure up to the standard, so why bother even trying?
2. Taking pot shots at those who they perceive as being successful. A *spirit* of envy enters and we begin to dislike and tear down those who experience the success we wish we had.

Those living in a world of envy think that God is so small He doesn’t have enough blessing for everybody.

Chapter 8 Section 2

James 3

When we enter the world of judgmentalism we become _____ of Satan, facilitating division and destruction, rather than unity and life.

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In a judgmental environment people are afraid to show weakness. The walls of self-protection are raised to the sky, leading to isolation and spiritual vulnerability.

True spiritual growth _____ humility and openness, but our own sinfulness, combined with the unrighteous judgments of others, breeds fear of vulnerability. Our *Christian* environments either facilitate freedom or contribute to further bondage.

1 John 1:8-10

When we attack our brothers and sisters in Christ with a judgmental spirit, in a very real sense we attack Christ Himself.

Matthew 25:31-46

The law of sowing and reaping works for good and bad.

Galatians 6:7-8

“Be merciful even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven . . . For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:36-38 (ESV)

God may allow us to see things. It’s up to us to season what we see with love. We can pray. We can believe. We can correct.

Judgmentalism is the root cause of *ethnocentrism*, *racism* and *the great gender divide*.

Webster defines *ethnocentric* as “characterized by or based on the attitude that one's own group is superior.”²⁸

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²⁸ Webster’s Online Dictionary. July 13, 2010. < <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ethnocentrism>>

Ephesians 2:13-18

Ephesians 2:13-18**Chapter 8 Section 3**T
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Do we realize the damage that law-based living has done in our world?

“From now on we regard no one according to the flesh.” 2 Corinthians 5:16a (ESV)

Luke 22:24-27

As soon as you begin to exalt your flesh-based identity you create animosity with someone who is not what you are.

The pressure of political correctness and all of the education in the world will not eliminate the problems of racism and discrimination. If we can't change hearts, then laws must be enacted to govern speech and behavior.

The cross of Jesus Christ is the only truly effective dagger to the heart of human conflict.

The genders are meant to _____ one another, not compete against each other. Our differences are not about value or importance, but the healthy function of society.

Class discrimination involves those who see themselves as the superior elite ruling over the ignorant masses. Regardless of political persuasion, this spirit of elitism is what drives so many of the governments in our age.

The cross alone has the power to destroy animosity and breed love.

Galatians 3:26-29

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female – for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28 (NET)

The primary separation in God's world is not skin color, ethnicity, status, education or wealth, but *light* versus *darkness*.

Ephesians 5:1-13

Another horrible and destructive form of ethnocentrism could be called *denominocentrism*—the attitude that our own church, doctrine or denomination is superior to others.

God blesses us because He loves us and is faithful to His promises—not because we are so great!

Can't we see that no one Christian group can fulfill the Great Commission? Jesus was not speaking idly when He said that a kingdom divided against itself _____ stand!

Matthew 12:22-28

Just like the genders, church movements are intended to *complement*, not *compete against* each other.

We can work and pray and give and reach out to others in a genuine effort to build a ministry that honors God and touches people, but the instant we become elitist in our thinking marks the beginning of the decline of all that we have worked so hard to build.

James 4:5-6

Kindness, gentleness, and humility—all are words that characterize Christ's heart in relating to imperfect human lives.

Some serious changes are needed in the Church at large, but think of the potential fruit if we can begin to break free from law-based living!



The Crabby World of Judgmentalism - Group Dynamics

Chapter 8 Section 1 – Group Discussion

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1. What is envy? Why is it so damaging? Do you think envy is a factor in causing people who do wrong to be bothered by those who do right? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the areas of life in which we constantly judge others? What are some of the reasons that religious environments tend to be judgmental? Discuss the difference between *righteous* and *unrighteous* judgment.
3. What factors should influence our decision to correct others as opposed to praying and waiting on the Holy Spirit to convict others of their sin? What is the danger of failing to bring correction in a church environment? What are some of the reasons that we avoid bringing correction?
4. What is the motivation behind godly correction? Why is it so important to correct in the spirit of Galatians 6:1? What are some reasons that people have difficulty receiving correction?
5. What are the dangers of putting people we view as being successful (athletes, rock stars, movie stars, business tycoons, religious leaders) *on a pedestal*?
6. Why is it so easy to just *let ourselves go* in certain areas (e.g. physical appearance) in which we don't feel we can achieve the expected standards? What is the difference between a healthy sense of *self-acceptance* versus a hopeless sense of *self-resignation*?

Chapter 8 Section 2 – Group Discussion

1. **What do you think is significant about the crab illustration? What are some of the ugly symptoms that surface in a highly judgmental environment?**

2. **How does living in a judgmental environment feed and further the law-based tendencies in our lives? Why are humility, openness and honesty necessary for spiritual growth? Why is it so difficult for us to cultivate these attributes? (Psalm 51:5-6; 1 John 1:5-10)**

3. Discuss the law of sowing and reaping in relationship to the issue of *judgmentalism*.

4. **Talk about the role that personal prayer plays in helping us to overcome judgmental attitudes as we become aware of the shortcomings of others.**

5. Why do parents so often pressure their children to excel? What types of damage can result? What are some healthy ways by which parents can help to motivate their children to excel? (Colossians 3:21)

6. What is *ethnocentrism*? Why does the process of passing more laws fail to eliminate the problems of racism and discrimination?



Chapter 8 Section 3 – Group Discussion

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- 1. How does living under law serve to create animosity between people(s)? Discuss the role that law-based living has played in the atrocities of slavery and ethnic cleansing seen in recent centuries.**
 - 2. How do you see class discrimination at work in our day? Why is the cross of Jesus Christ the only real and lasting solution to the problems of human conflict, division and oppression?**
 3. What is *denominocentrism*? What are some of the factors that contribute to this deadly form of pride? In what ways can we be actually working against God when we are trying to work for Him?
 4. What are some of the signs that we are seeking to build our own kingdoms as opposed to Christ's? What are the dangers? What are some of the things that we can do to protect against this natural tendency?
 5. What is the difference between *unity* and *uniformity*? (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
 - 6. How do judgmental attitudes help to undermine the mission of the Church? What changes would take place if we as Christians actually began to love one another as Jesus commanded? (Matthew 12:25; John 13:34-35)**

THE CRABBY WORLD OF JUDGMENTALISM - PERSONAL PURSUIT

Please record a personal reflection of something meaningful in each passage.

John 7:1-24 _____

Prayer Point: This is another good opportunity to yield your will to God so that you can make righteous judgments without selfish intent.

Matthew 18:15-20 _____

Prayer Point: Is there a situation in your life that requires loving confrontation? Now could be an excellent time to prayerfully address that issue!

Luke 6:27-49 _____

Prayer Point: Ask God to free you from a spirit of judgmentalism.

James 3 _____

Prayer Point: Pray for wisdom and surrender your tongue to God.

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Ephesians 2:13-18 _____

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Prayer Point: Today would be a good day to tear down a wall of disunity!

Ephesians 5:1-13 _____

Prayer Point: Confess to God (and possibly to a trusted friend) an area of your life in which darkness is having its way.

Matthew 12:22-28 _____

Prayer Point: Please pray for God to establish unity between the *churches* in your community.

Extra Effort:

___ Review your notes at least twice.

___ Read the non-boldfaced Scripture passages in the margins of this chapter.

___ Read the boldfaced Scripture passages in the margins of the next chapter.

___ Recite your memory verses from the previous chapters.

___ Write out and memorize John 7:24 _____

