

The Difference Between Healthy Judging Within the Church and the Unhealthy Forming of Judgments

-Judgments can certainly be damaging to others, but equally important: **judgments on others negatively affects your own heart.**

-Corporately, we must not form judgments because it will harden our hearts and quench the Lord among us.

Healthy Judging Within the Church

1Co 5:12 "For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?"

-We are to judge deeds within the church as being good or bad.

-It is good to ask questions of one another to discover and learn where "we are coming from" with certain behaviors or words spoken.

Jhn 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

- If another's actions or words don't seem consistent with what we know of the Lord, It is healthy to have dialogue in order to learn and ask.

- You may both discover that repentance may be necessary from one or both parties.

-You may realize that what you perceived was actually something different.

- We are not to become "the righteousness police" for one another and promote a self-righteous legalistic way of relating.

-When certain actions or words cause our hearts to question, to wonder, and not feel as close with a brother or sister; it is good to have a talk and find out in order to maintain unity, intimacy, and vulnerability.

Unhealthy Judging Outside the Church

1Co 5:12 "For what have I to do with judging outsiders?"

-Although we can observe the deeds of non-Christians as being wrong, we should not make it our business to focus on correcting their individual deeds or pointing out their errors. We should point them to Jesus Christ.

Unhealthy Judging Within the Church

Mat 7:1-5 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Gal 6:1 "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted."

- We must always judge the deeds of others in the church while looking at our own selves and in gentleness – giving them the benefit of the doubt.

Judging vs. Forming Judgments

-Although it is good to judge within the church, a particular kind of judging can become “a judgment”.

Rom 14:10 “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, **why do you regard your brother with contempt?** For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”

-Contempt for others in the church is often a sign that you have a judgment.

- We can accurately judge that certain behaviors may or may not be Godly, but moving over to contempt usually shows that you have a judgment.

2Co 5:16 “Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh...”

-we are not to “know” anyone naturally, but spiritually. Having contempt for a Christian brother or sister is not knowing them after their spirit.

-We often form a judgment in order to protect ourselves

- when we feel safe with a person, we can be vulnerable and open.

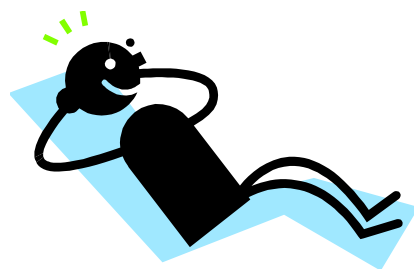
- when our view of someone changes from them being a safe person to someone that can cause me harm, damage, or pain: a judgment can be erected in order to wall them off from your heart.

- a judgment puts the other person into a category or into “a box” of wrong. It is more than saying “what they did was wrong”, it is saying “who they are as a person is wrong”. This is a judgment.

- this also walls you off from God because of the hardness in your heart.

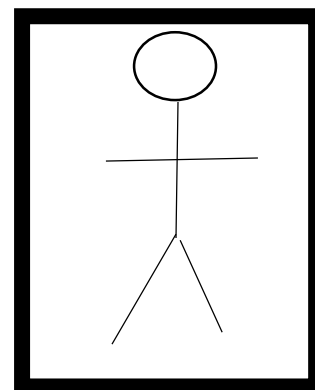
- a judgments is a *confident knowing* of what kind of person someone is, or a *confident knowing* of where they are in their heart. The *knowing* that you have *protects you* from them.

- it is this confident knowing that is an arrogant posture in the heart that is not innocent and unassuming. This negatively affects your heart toward the Lord.



You feel safe

because



You've put them in a box that says "who they are is wrong".