

Denouncing
(Your Inner)
**JUDGE
DREDD**



“God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?”

James 4:12 NLT

Genesis 2:15-17 NIV

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Genesis 3:1-4 NIV

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

“The essence of sin according to the Genesis account is the transgression of this proper boundary. We are not satisfied being God-like in our capacity to love; we also want to become God-like in our capacity to judge, which is how the serpent tempts us. But in aspiring toward the latter, we lose our capacity for the former; for unlike God, we cannot judge and love at the same time.”

Greg Boyd, *Repenting of Religion: Turning from Judgment to the Love of God* (pg. 68)

“We know what true love looks like because of Jesus. He gave His life for us, and He calls us to give our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

1 John 3:16 VOICE



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this [*agape*] everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love [*agape*] one another.” **Jesus, John 13:34-35**

Paul, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 12-13 MSG

“If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”

“Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always “me first,”
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.”

“We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.”

Jesus, Matthew 7:1-2 NLT

¹“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ²For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.”

Matthew 7:3-5 NLT

³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”



John 8:1-11 – the *accusers* are confronted by Jesus and are called out as “children of the devil” (Jn 8: 42-47).

James 4:11 NLT

¹¹ Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸ Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus intensified the Law

Second Greatest Commandment – Mark 12:31

The Golden Rule – Matthew 7:12

James 4:12 NLT

¹² God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.”

Paul, 1 Timothy 1:15 NLT

Paul, 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 NIV

³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

The Difference Between Judgment & Discernment

- *krino* – to separate or put asunder; to judge or condemn (derivatives: critic, critical, criticize)
To “judge” (*krino*) people, i.e. *who* is good & evil, is strictly prohibited in Scripture, only God can “separate” people, knowing their hearts
(Matt 25:31-33; John 8:50; Acts 17:31; Rom 12:19)
- However, in the context where “judging” involves *discerning what* is good or evil, true or false, healthy or unhealthy, reflective of the Spirit or of the flesh, is given to us for our good and for the benefit of the Body of Christ—it involves the separating of things
(Lk 6:43-45; John 7:24; 1 Cor 6:4-6; 5:11-13; Heb 5:14)

Denouncing Our Inner Judge Dredd

- Judgment is the antithesis of love.
- We're allowed only one opinion about ourselves:
"I'm a great sinner, I'm forgiven by the grace of God."
- We're allowed only one opinion about others:
"They were worth Jesus dying for."
- We must take our judgmental "thoughts captive" and affirm the worth of others.
- An invitation into relationship must precede truth-telling and correction—
difference between Jesus and Satan.



“So imitate God. *Follow Him* like adored children, and live in love as the Anointed One [Christ] loved you—so much that He gave Himself as a fragrant sacrifice, pleasing God.”

Paul, Ephesians 5:1-2 VOICE

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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org