

Judging (criticism) (Matthew 7:1-5)

Series: The Foundational Teachings of Jesus for Today's World

A. Jesus, "You who are without _____, *you* throw the first stone."

1. Judging = Criticism

B. 2 kinds of criticism or judgments

1. _____ Criticism – help offered that is based on truth, necessity, and love

2. Destructive criticism (judging) - the destructive, inherent tendency we have to see other people's shortcomings, faults & weaknesses, while being totally oblivious to our own

C. 3 Reasons judging/criticism = SIN

1. Judging or Criticizing hurts the _____ you are criticizing

2. Criticism hurts the _____ (you) – Mt 6:23

a) If the eye focuses on darkness, then the entire heart will become dark.

b) If the eye focuses on light, then the entire heart will light up

3. Judging or criticizing hurts those who bear _____ to it as well (usually your friends, family, etc.)

a) _____ Effect - everything you do, for better or for worse, affects your family, friends & whoever else is exposed to you

b) Criticism/Judging is like 2nd-hand smoke..... everyone who breathes the air is hurt by itD. **When criticism is constructive or appropriate**

1. To be constructive, Criticism must be true & _____

a. It is much better to ask the offending party questions before getting upset/criticizing, than to get upset, criticize & then try to repair the damage

2. Criticism is only constructive when it is absolutely _____ ("critical")

a. If their lives would go on just fine without hearing what you have to say, then probably you shouldn't say it

3. Criticism is only constructive if its motive is solely based on _____ & sincere desire to help & build them up

For Further Study: **How we should give criticism** – Mt 18:15-20

- Don't involve a third party (gossip/slander)... go to that person

- if that doesn't work, take a witness & then a group

- always forgive on the inside, even if you need to set healthy boundaries

"Give up speck inspecting for spark (or light) injecting"

A. sin B. constructive C. person 2. critic 3. witness a. butterfly D. verifiable 2. necessary E3. love