

influence

Is it right to judge?

Matthew 7:1-6

Week 9 of 11

At a recent gathering of seminary professors, one teacher reported that at his school the most damaging charge one student can lodge against another is that the person is being “judgmental.” He found this pattern very upsetting. “You can’t get a good argument going in class anymore,” he said. “As soon as somebody takes a stand on any important issue, someone else says that the person is being judgmental. And that’s it. End of discussion. Everyone is intimidated!”

Many of the other professors nodded knowingly. There seemed to be a consensus that the fear of being judgmental has taken on epidemic proportions.

Is the call for civility just another way of spreading this epidemic? If so, then I’m against civility. But I really don’t think that this is what being civil is all about. Christian civility does not commit us to a relativistic perspective. Being civil doesn’t mean that we cannot criticize what goes on around us. Civility doesn’t require us to approve of what other people believe and do. It is one thing to insist that other people have the right to express their basic convictions; it is another thing to say that they are right in doing so. Civility requires us to live by the first of these principles. But it does not commit us to the second formula. To say that all beliefs and values deserve to be treated as if they were on a par is to endorse relativism—a perspective that is incompatible with Christian faith and practice. Christian civility does not mean refusing to make judgments about what is good and true.



northeast daily reading

July 10 - 11, 2010

influence

Is it right to judge?

Matthew 7:1-6

Week 9 of 11

At a recent gathering of seminary professors, one teacher reported that at his school the most damaging charge one student can lodge against another is that the person is being “judgmental.” He found this pattern very upsetting. “You can’t get a good argument going in class anymore,” he said. “As soon as somebody takes a stand on any important issue, someone else says that the person is being judgmental. And that’s it. End of discussion. Everyone is intimidated!”

Many of the other professors nodded knowingly. There seemed to be a consensus that the fear of being judgmental has taken on epidemic proportions.

Is the call for civility just another way of spreading this epidemic? If so, then I’m against civility. But I really don’t think that this is what being civil is all about. Christian civility does not commit us to a relativistic perspective. Being civil doesn’t mean that we cannot criticize what goes on around us. Civility doesn’t require us to approve of what other people believe and do. It is one thing to insist that other people have the right to express their basic convictions; it is another thing to say that they are right in doing so. Civility requires us to live by the first of these principles. But it does not commit us to the second formula. To say that all beliefs and values deserve to be treated as if they were on a par is to endorse relativism—a perspective that is incompatible with Christian faith and practice. Christian civility does not mean refusing to make judgments about what is good and true.



northeast daily reading

July 10 - 11 2010



influence

Is it right to judge?

Matthew 7:1-6

Week 9 of 11

For one thing, it really isn't possible to be completely nonjudgmental. Even telling someone else that she is being judgmental is a rather judgmental thing to do! (*Uncommon Decency*, Richard J. Mouw, pp. 20-21)

This week's daily reading will expose us to what scripture says about being judgmental.

- DAY ONE – Matthew 7:1-6
- DAY TWO – Romans 14:1-15:13
- DAY THREE – 1 Corinthians 4:1-9
- DAY FOUR – James 2:12-13 and 4:1-12
- DAY FIVE – Matthew 10:11-16

Memory Verse:

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
(Matthew 7:1-2)



influence

Is it right to judge?

Matthew 7:1-6

Week 9 of 11

For one thing, it really isn't possible to be completely nonjudgmental. Even telling someone else that she is being judgmental is a rather judgmental thing to do! (*Uncommon Decency*, Richard J. Mouw, pp. 20-21)

This week's daily reading will expose us to what scripture says about being judgmental.

- DAY ONE – Matthew 7:1-6
- DAY TWO – Romans 14:1-15:13
- DAY THREE – 1 Corinthians 4:1-9
- DAY FOUR – James 2:12-13 and 4:1-12
- DAY FIVE – Matthew 10:11-16

Memory Verse:

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
(Matthew 7:1-2)