

Repentance - From Judgment

Judge not, that you be not judged

- **Matthew 7.1-5**
 - The sin of judgment towards others is dangerous one
 - It is a sin against another
 - We are unfit to judge
 - Speck - Log
 - Only God is just in his judgment
 - “Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” James 5.9
 - “God judges” - Romans 2.1-3

 - It is also a sin that has deep personal consequences
 - A judgmental and unrepentant heart cultivates soil perfect for condemnation
 - It will become to us a prison, trapping us in our sin
 - IE:
 - Judgment towards ‘bad’ parents
 - Judgment towards another church
 - Judgment towards the poor
 - Judgment towards those in sin & addiction

 - The sin of Judgment is rooted in and strengthened by **pride**
 - “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.”
 - Repentance requires honesty & humility
 - It is a sin often flowing from a place of envy or covetousness

Restoration not Condemnation

- We can still stand firm on the truth
 - “But... what that person is doing is so wrong!” or “Don’t shouldn’t we say or do something?”
 - Justice is God’s heart, and as his people we should have a deep commitment to it
 - There is a profound difference between **Judgement and Genuine Care/Concern**

- The heart was restoration!

- Jeremiah 18.7-8
 - If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it."
 - God's heart is for RESTORATION

- Luke 17.3-4
 - "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent', you must forgive him."
 - God's heart is for RESTORATION!

Repentance from Judgment

- Our own freedom and healing often involves coming out from under judgment against us
 - This often requires repentance (not an absence of judgment)
 - note: The devil is relentless in his judgment towards us - Shame, Condemnation, etc

 - Judgment loses its power over our lives when we Repent
 - Humility & Honesty
 - Freeing us to Restoration ourselves!

 - Forgiveness is key here
 - Where do I need forgive?
 - Where do I need to ask for forgiveness?

- The World has a Judge and He's not asking for your help on that front!
 - He is however inviting you (like Jonah) to join him in the work of RESTORATION!

- Repentance:
 - We need to vacate the place of Judge & Get to the work of restoration!

The following is a list of principles comparing the focus of the current criminal justice system with a restorative system:

Old Paradigm: Retributive	New Paradigm: Restorative
Focus on establishing blame and guilt	Focus on problem solving, liabilities and obligations, focus on the future.
Stigma of crime permanent.	Stigma of crime removable.
No encouragement for repentance and forgiveness.	Possibilities for repentance and forgiveness.
Dependence upon proxy professionals.	Direct involvement by participants.
Action directed from state to offender: Victim ignored - Offender passive.	Victim and offender's roles recognized in both problem and solution; Victim rights/needs recognized; Offender encouraged to take responsibility.
Offender accountability defined as taking punishment.	Offender accountability defined as understanding impact of action and helping decide how to make things right.
Offence defined in purely legal terms - devoid of moral, social, economic, political dimensions.	Offence understood in whole context - moral, social, economic, political.
"Debt" owed to state and society.	Debts/liability to victim recognized.
Response focused on offender's past behavior.	Response focused on harmful consequences of offender's behavior.
Imposition of pain to punish and deter/prevent.	Restitution as a means of restoring both parties; reconciliation/restoration as a goal.
Conflict seen as individual vs. state - interpersonal, conflictual nature of crime obscured, repressed.	Crime recognized as interpersonal conflict.
Community represented abstractly by the state.	Community as facilitator.