



- Our faith in Jesus displays a changed, and surrendered **heart** for Jesus.

- As believers, unchecked pride in us will lead to **judgement** from us.

8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. James 4:8b-10

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.

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? James 4:11-12

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. James 3:1

- Judging others is **not wrong**.

12 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. 13 God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

6 But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matthew 18:6
Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Matthew 7:1

2 The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? Matthew 7:2b-3

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? Matthew 7:4

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. Matthew 7:5

24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly. John 7:24

How to judge rightly:

- **How** we judge others is where we go wrong.
- We can only judge rightly when our **heart** is right.
- The motive of judging biblically is **love**.

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Galatians 6:1

- The posture of judging is **humility** and relationship.

5 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. Matthew 7:5

11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. James 4:11a

Faith that changes how we see people:

- Faith in Jesus changes my **heart** for others, which changes how I **speak** to others.

Action Step:

Address your **heart** for others.

11 ...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. James 4:11b

- Faith surrenders to God's Word, not **sucker-punching** others with it.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39

Action Step:

Correct something in **yourself** this week.

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? James 4:12

- Faith remembers who actually sits in the **Judge's seat**.

So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Romans 14:10-11 (Msg)

Action Step:

Give the **seat** back to God.

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What does a surrendered heart to Jesus look like in the way we treat other people?
- How can unchecked pride in our hearts lead us to wrongly judge others?
- What is the difference between biblical discernment and sinful judgment?
- Why does Jesus tell us to deal with the "log" in our own eye before addressing someone else's "speck"?
- How does our motive change the way we correct someone? Why must biblical correction be rooted in love?
- What does humility look like when we need to confront another believer about sin?
- How can we use God's Word to correct others while failing to let it correct us?
- "Faith changes my heart for others, which changes how I speak to others." What might your words reveal about your heart?
- What does it practically mean to "give the seat back to God" when someone has wronged or frustrated you?
- Is there someone you need to approach with greater love, humility, or grace? What would that look like?
- What is one specific thing the Holy Spirit may be asking you to change in yourself after this study?

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