

Two peas in a pod Judgement and Criticism

I. Definitions

A. Pea number one defined

Judging is to form an opinion or evaluation

B. Pea number two defined

Criticism is defined as, a critical or serious comment or judgment, often used in a negative or harmful or destructive way

II. Why people judge

A. Some because they are arrogant and deceived.

To put it into plain language, some folks criticize and judge because they think they are more important than, and superior to other folks.

B. Some folks judge because they don't love

I Corinthians 13:4 says Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

A critical and judgmental person is seldom patient and kind

C. Some folks judge and criticize because they are blind.

They see all the bad things a person might do or say, but they are blind to the good qualities a person has.

As someone observed, there is some bad in the best of us, and some good in the worst of us.

D. Some folks judge and criticize because they are insecure.

It makes them feel better by dragging someone else down.

E. Some do it because they are just cold and heartless.

These folks have not a good word for either man nor beast

F. Some do it because they have a Pharisee streak in them

Always better than another person, but short on the love and acceptance of others in their own lives

III. Why we should not judge

A. Jesus knew that only *God* has all the facts to judge with perfect objectivity

B. Jesus knew that only *God* is completely impartial. Romans 2:11 reminds us that *God* does not show favoritism.

C. Jesus knew that only *God* is fit to judge mankind.

D. Jesus knew that all people would give an account to only to *God*.
Romans 14:10-14

Fact: The judgmental critic will give account for their judgments and criticisms. Sobering thought isn't it??

E. Jesus knew that *God* created a variety of personalities, cultures and backgrounds for His purposes.

Who are we, the clay, to say to the Potter, "Why did you make me like this?" *God* has the right to make people however He chooses.

Ask the Lord to give you a greater understanding of the diversity of His creation and a more tolerance for differences.

The formula is as follows: More tolerance for differences + a less judgmental attitude equals more person to person success.

F. Jesus knew that people at various degrees of maturity need to be judged according to their stage of growth.

Some of the most mature are those who do not judge or criticize, but instead give the benefit of the doubt, while some of the least mature make it their mission to try and seem better than others.

IV. How we should handle someone's judgment and criticism

A. Consider the source

Is there something going on in their personal life that could be affecting their attitude toward you?

They may be unhappy, bored, or jealous that you have a life you enjoy.

B. Try not to imitate the judge or critic.

If we are not careful we will be acting like the person whose actions and words we don't care for.

C. Remember this truth

When someone judges or criticizes you, they do it from ignorance not wisdom. They are not judging correctly because they can't. They are imperfect also.

Question: How can an imperfect person make a perfect judgement or criticize correctly? THEY CAN'T

D. Live your life based on what God says or thinks about you. Anything less is useless.

V. How to break this nasty habit First

A. Review your own life before spouting off about someone else's

In other words sweep your own doorstep before thinking you should be telling someone else how to sweep theirs.

B. Be so busy doing the work of the Lord that you don't have time to be the judging departments resident manager

C. Mind your own business

Some unknown author says it this way: Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.

D. Ask the following questions:

Do I know all the facts?

Do I want to know them or am I happy with my little bits of knowledge, and I just want to use those for my judging?

Would I like it if that person judged me? If what you give out boomerangs back to you, would you be glad to get it back?

Suggestion: If it is harsh, critical judgment you wouldn't want it coming back to you in like manner. If it is mercy, you would. Right??

E. Pray the following prayer: Dear God judge me as I have judged others

So the next time you feel the urge to judge or criticize some one else consider the principle of the Chinese Proverb that says, "Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet."

Lets be a little slower and a little more kind when it comes to looking at the lives and actions of others.

You see, I needed this and so did you. Right?

Final thoughts: Maybe you have run into people in life who have no problem judging or criticizing you but if you will just read a few more lines you can be introduced to one who will not judge you or criticize you. Instead he gave his life so you could find eternal life.

If that is what you would like to have, all you need to do is read a few more lines and follow instructions

Realize you are a sinner Rom. 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Rom. 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Rom. 6:23b and Jn. 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)