

LIVING FAITH – The Book of JAMES Part 7

Immaturity Judges; Maturity Discerns

James' Message (4:11-12)

- * If you start _____ & _____ others, you're on very _____.
- * If we don't watch our _____, the natural human tendency to _____ can rapidly _____ out of control.

JUDGING

+ve connotations: Shrewd measures, accurate conclusions, reasoned evaluations, fair decision (Prov 9:10, 1 Sam 16:7, John 7:24).

- * There is no doubt that _____ judgments, _____-handled, _____-motivated, _____-informed are crucial.

-ve connotations: Condemn, criticise, discriminate, jump to conclusions.

EXAMPLES

- Quick to judge harshly, without knowing the full facts.
- Accepting or spreading unsubstantiated rumours.
- Piling on condemnation from a sense of moral superiority.
- Calling out others' sin while overlooking one's own.
- Assuming everything others do must be critiqued or corrected.
- Judging or condemning in situations where we would expect grace for ourselves.
- Letting prejudice or personal bias drive conclusions

DANGERS

1. The _____ is a form of _____.
2. Christians are already considered to be _____ & _____.
3. Personal _____ can make our conclusions _____.

Jesus' Teaching (Matt 7:1-5)

1. Check your _____
2. Check your _____
3. Check your _____

DISCERNING

To judge: _____ & make intelligent / emotional deductions.

To discern is to _____ with our _____.

Holy Spirit _____: The ability to see _____.

HOW to be a Discerner

1. Decide you're going to be _____
 - * There's always _____ going on _____ the _____.
 - * Discernment sees the _____, past me & my consequences, and into the _____.
2. Train yourself to _____
 - * Learn to _____ flesh & carnality, and _____ for scriptural & Holy Spirit-inspired wisdom.
 - * _____ decisions create problems that can take ages to undo; _____ decisions may take longer, but save a great deal of pain.
3. Make the _____ about _____, not _____
 - * It's not about your self-interest, preservation or reputation, but their _____.
 - * Jesus loved people towards heart change, because He _____ rather than merely _____.