

# The Impartiality of God

Romans 2:1–16

## The Danger of Judging Others

- **Romans 2:1**, "You have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things."

Why do you think we're tempted to excuse our own faults while condemning others for theirs?

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## 1. Judgment is According to Works

- **Romans 2:6-11**, "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality."

How do our actions reflect our faith, and what does that say about our relationship with God?

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In what ways are we tempted to rely on status or heritage instead of true obedience to God's commands?

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- **Romans 2:12-13**, "For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified."

Reflect on ways you might be tempted to hear God's Word but fail to live it out in daily practice. How can you ensure you are a "doer" of the law rather than just a hearer?

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## 2. Gentiles, the Law is Written on the Heart

- **Romans 2:14-15**, "For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them."

In what ways do we see evidence of God's law written on the hearts of those who are not Christians?

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- **Jeremiah 31:33**, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

How do we discern whether our moral convictions are influenced by the Holy Spirit or by cultural norms?

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## 3. Christ is the Ultimate Judge

- **Romans 2:16**, "On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus."
- **Romans 1:1-4**, "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord."

How should the knowledge that Christ will judge even our hidden thoughts affect the way we live day to day?

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- **Isaiah 6:5**, 'And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"'

What areas of your thought-life need to be brought into alignment with God's law by the transformative power of Christ, knowing that nothing is hidden from Him?

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