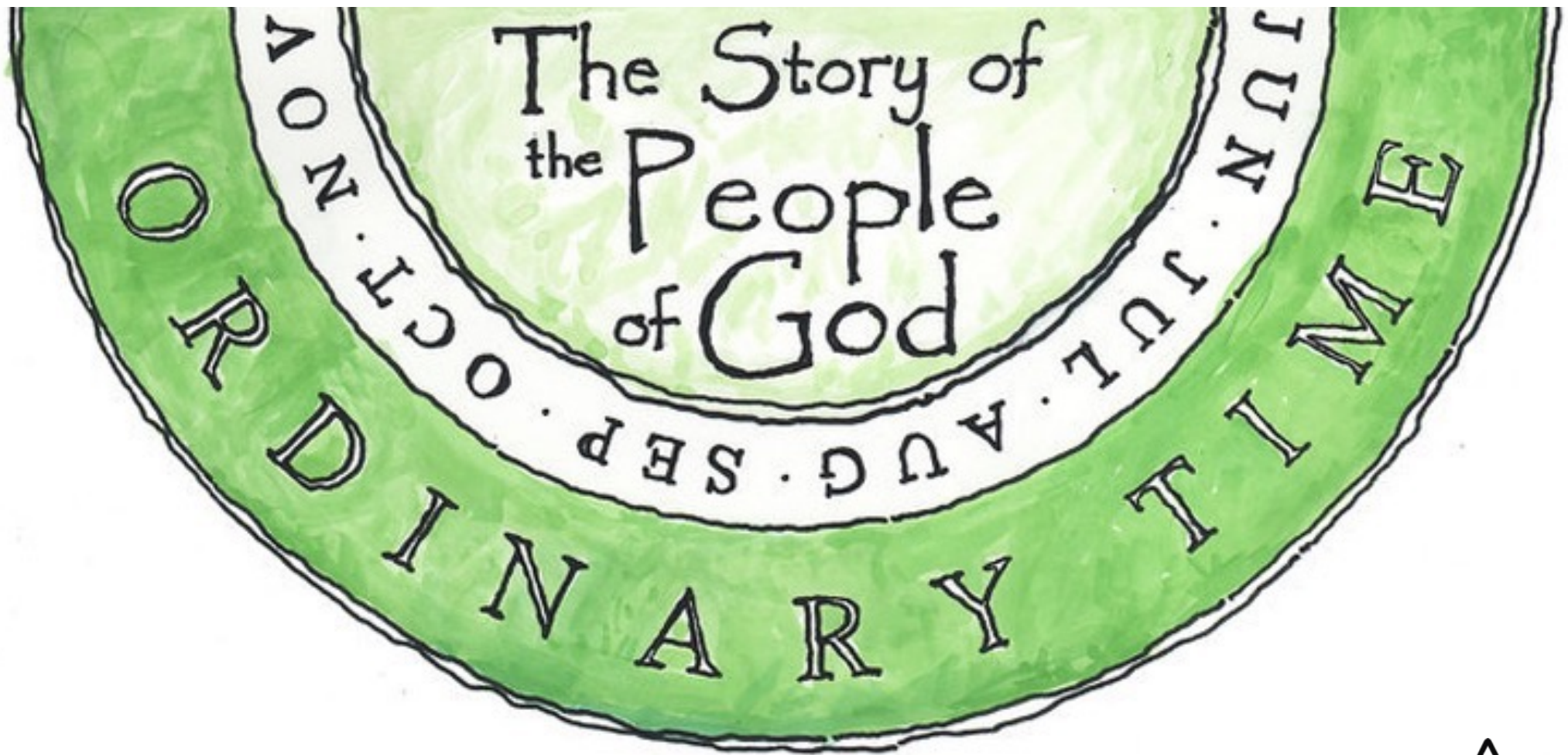


Holy One, Covenant-Keeper,
Restorer of what is lost:
heal what is wounded,
and gather in all who have been rejected.
Give us the faith to champion the voices
of the downcast and oppressed,
that all people may know your liberation.
Amen.

Opening Prayer







THE GOOD and BEAUTIFUL LIFE



OUTLINE OF JESUS' "DISCOURSE ON THE HILL"

4:17-25	5:1-20	5:21-48	6:1-34	7:1-12	7:13-27
What Jesus assumes to be true about life	Ordinary people are salt and light	Concrete examples of the Kingdom heart	Character of God, warning against false securities	Warning against control/judging; A call to Love	Blessing/trouble from following or not following
Reliance on him	The truly well off	Anger, lust, etc.	Image/wealth	Helping w/love	Wise/Foolish

GENIUS

RARE, natural mental ability or creative power; an **EXCEPTIONAL** level of skill/talent

splint coal

splint coal, a splintery coal which is non-caking, owing to the high percentage of carbon and the low amount of bituminous substance it contains.

splint'er, *v.t.*; *splintered*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *splintering*, *ppr.* [Dan. *splitre*, to splinter.]

1. to split or break into thin, sharp pieces; to shiver; as, the lightning *splintered* the tree.
2. to splint; to support by a splint, as a broken limb.

splint'er, *v.i.* to split or break into long, sharp pieces.

splint'er, *n.*, a fragment of anything split or shivered off; a thin, sharp piece of wood or other solid substance split or broken from the main body; as, *splinters* of wood; rent off by a shot.

splint'er bär, a crossbar in a wheel to which the traces of the horse are attached; also, the crossbar which is broken in a wheel of bursting shells.

splint'er-proof, *a.* proof against bursting shells.

splint'ery, *a.* 1. easily split or shivered. 2. of or like a splinter. 3. resulting in splinters. 4. full of splinters; rough.

split, *v.t.*; *split or obr.* *split*, *pt.*, *pp.* [M.E. *spliten*, to split.]

1. to separate, cut, or divide into two or more parts; to cause grain or length; to break or tear apart; to rend.
2. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
3. to cause a group to separate into divisions; to divide.
4. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
5. in chemistry, to divide into atoms; to separate into atoms.
6. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
7. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
8. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
9. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
10. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
11. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
12. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.
13. to divide into parts; as, they *split* the party.

split, *v.i.* 1. to separate into two or more parts; to break or tear apart; to rend. 2. to break or tear apart; to rend. 3. to break or tear apart; to rend. 4. to break or tear apart; to rend. 5. to break or tear apart; to rend. 6. to break or tear apart; to rend. 7. to break or tear apart; to rend. 8. to break or tear apart; to rend. 9. to break or tear apart; to rend. 10. to break or tear apart; to rend. 11. to break or tear apart; to rend. 12. to break or tear apart; to rend. 13. to break or tear apart; to rend.

spoke

spoke, *n.*, a splintery coal which is non-caking, owing to the high percentage of carbon and the low amount of bituminous substance it contains.

spoke, *v.t.*; *spoiled*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *spoiling*, *ppr.* [M.E. *spoilien*; O.Fr. *espouiller*, from *spolium*, hide stripped from an animal.]

1. to damage or injure in such a way as to make useless, valueless, etc.; to destroy.
2. to mar or impair the enjoyment, quality, or functioning of; as, the rain *spoiled* our picnic.
3. to cause to demand or expect too much by overindulgence.
4. (a) to strip (a person) of goods, money, etc. by force; (b) to rob; pillage; plunder; (c) to seize (goods) by force. [Archaic.]

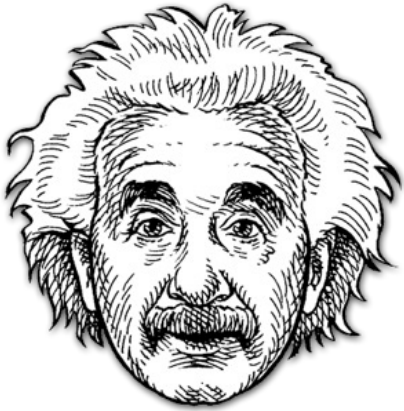
spoil, *n.f.* 1. to plunder; to pillage. [Archaic.]

1. Outlaws, which, lurking in woods, used to break forth to rob and *spoil*.
2. to be damaged or injured in such a way as to become useless, valueless, etc.; to decay, as food.
3. waste material removed in making excavations, etc.
4. that which is gained by strength or effort.
5. the art or practice of obtaining spoils; waste. [Archaic.]
6. corruption; dissipation.
7. the slough or mire into which a public officer, regarded as a political animal, is liable to fall.
8. a game of cards played with the whole pack, and by any number of persons up to ten, each player receiving five cards. Three tricks make the game, and when no one can take so many the game is said to be *spoiled*.
9. a destructive; rapacious. [Obs.]
10. a person who advocates the spoils system; one who supports a political party for private gain or to obtain office for himself or his friends.
11. an overwhelming majority carried the reform measure through the senate and the *spoils* were routed. — Elliott.
12. a distributor of political spoils.
13. a person who spoils another's sport or pleasure.
14. alternative past tense and past participle of *spoil*.
15. past tense and archaic past participle of *spoke*.

spoke, *n.* [A.S. *spōca*; Ice. *spōki*, a spoke. Same root as *spoke*.]

1. the radius or ray of a wheel; any of the small bars which are inserted in the hub and which serve to support the rim.
2. a rung of a ladder.
3. any of the handles jutting from the circumference of the steering wheel of a ship.
4. a contrivance for fastening the wheel of a vehicle in order to prevent its turning, as when going down a hill.
5. to put a *spoke* in one's wheel; to put an impediment in one's way; to thwart one's purpose or design.
6. a spoke, *pt.*, *pp.*; *spoking*, *ppr.* 1. to fit or furnish with spokes, as a wheel. 2. to thrust a spoke, or bar, into (a wheel) to prevent movement.

WIDELY REGARDED AS GENIUSES

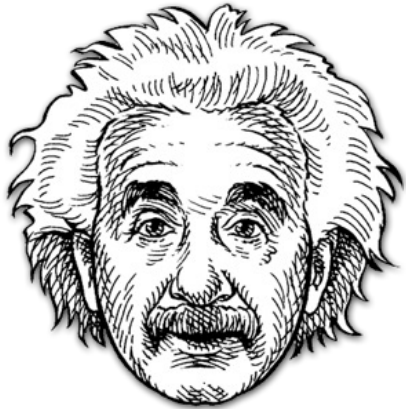


Einstein

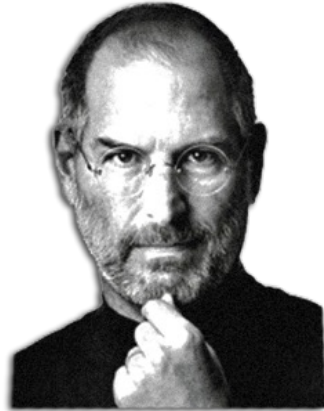
$$E=mc^2$$

Energy is equal to mass multiplied by the speed of light squared

WIDELY REGARDED AS GENIUSES



Einstein



Jobs

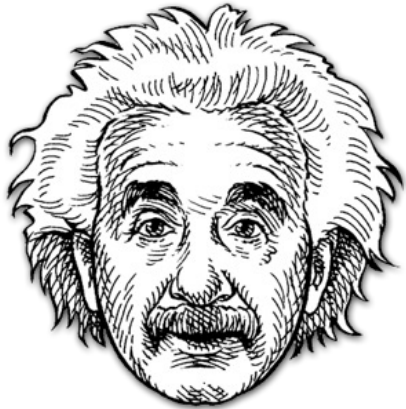
$$E=mc^2$$

↑ ↗ ↘ ↑ ↑

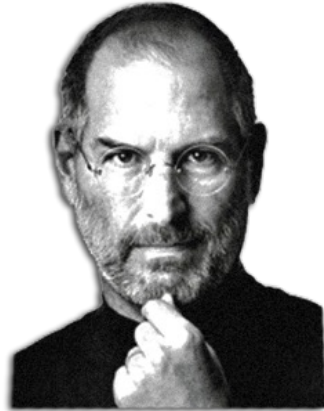
Energy is equal to mass multiplied by the speed of light squared



WIDELY REGARDED AS GENIUSES



Einstein



Jobs



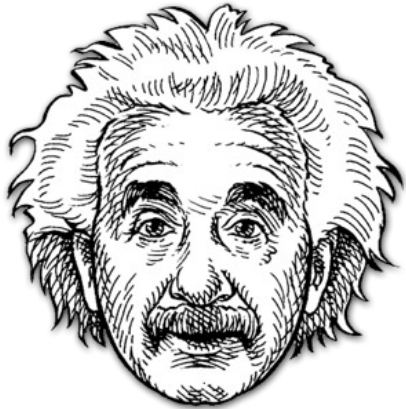
Carlsen

$$E=mc^2$$

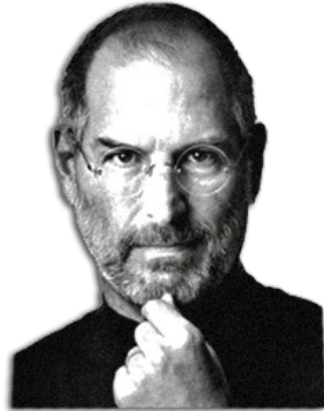
↑ ↗ ↘ ↑ ↑
Energy is equal to mass multiplied by the speed of light squared



WIDELY REGARDED AS GENIUSES



Einstein



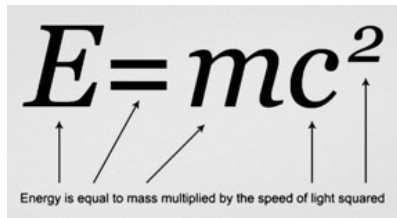
Jobs



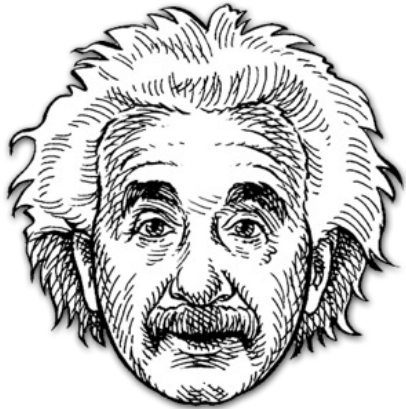
Carlsen



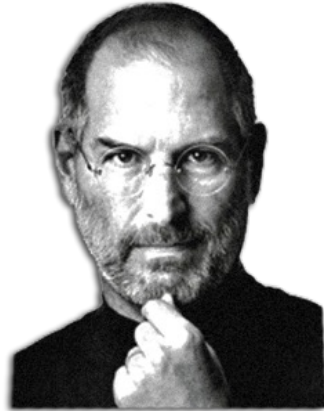
Rocket
Scientists



WIDELY REGARDED AS GENIUSES



Einstein



Jobs



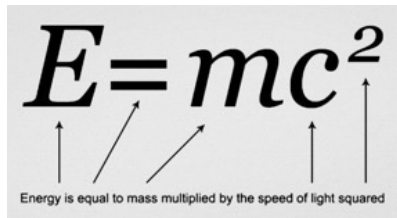
Carlsen



Rocket
Scientists



Jesus (?!)



LEARNING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS

Learning to live w/out **ANGER**

Learning to live w/out **LUST**

Learning to live w/out **LYING**

Learning to live w/out **VENGEANCE**

Learning to live w/out **VANITY**

Learning to live w/out **AVARICE**

Learning to live w/out **WORRY**

Learning to live w/out **JUDGMENT**



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

JUDGMENT

Making a **NEGATIVE** evaluation of others without standing in **SOLIDARITY** with them



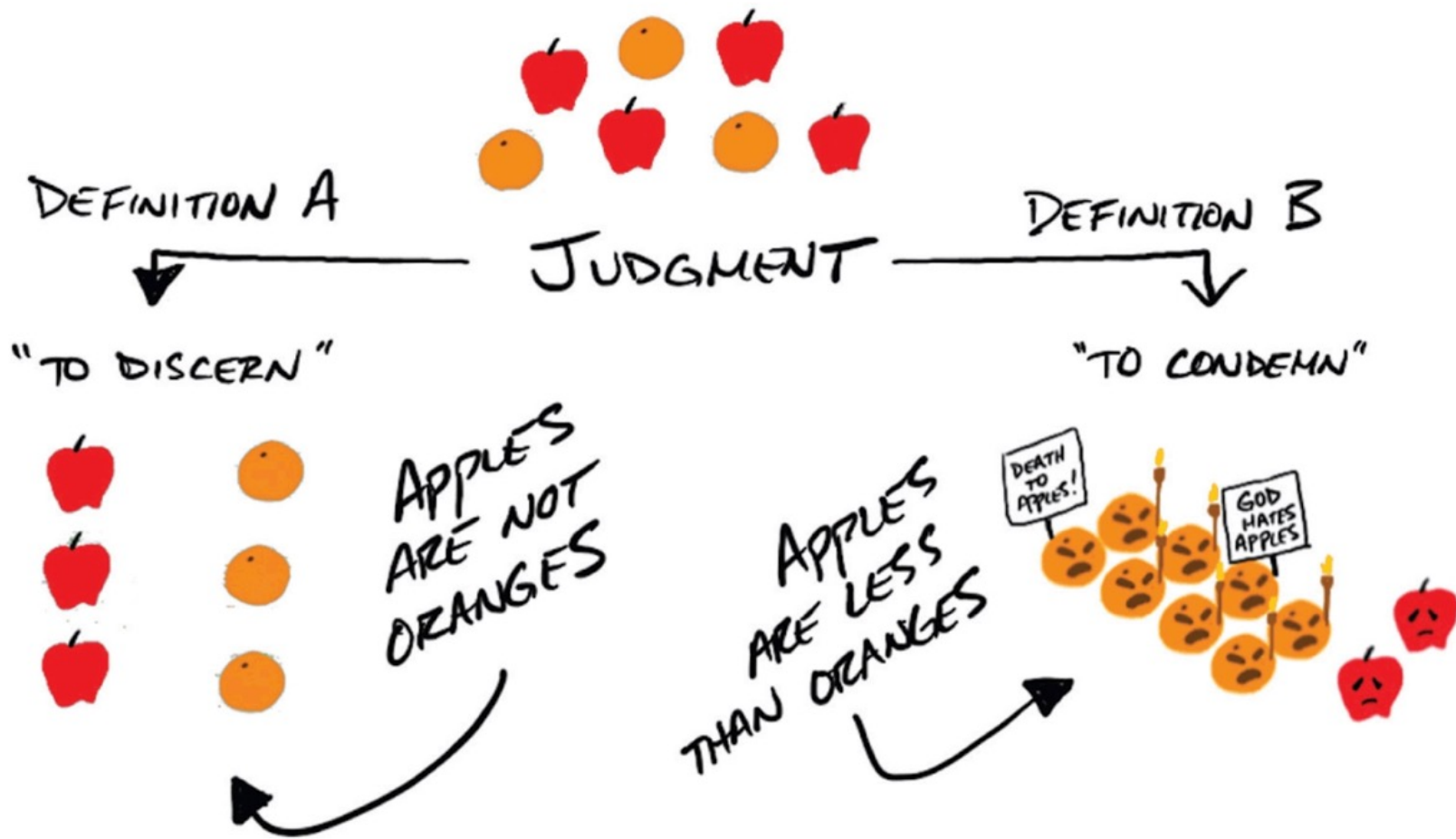
james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD



WHAT IF
JESUS WAS
SERIOUS?

FALSE NARRATIVE

We tend to **JUDGE** people for two primary reasons:

1. To “fix” them
2. To make us feel better about ourselves



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

WHEN IT COMES TO “FIXING”...

Condemnation Engineering

Seeing someone **WE** deem
to be at fault, and launching
a verbal **ATTACK** to “fix” them



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful **LIFE**

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

*Do not judge, so that you
may not be judged. For with
the judgement you make
you will be judged,
and the measure you give
will be the measure you get.
Why do you see the speck
in your neighbor's eye, but do not
notice the log in your own eye?*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:1-3

Can we *really*...successfully negotiate personal relations without letting people know that we disapprove of them and find them to be in the wrong? Condemnation – giving it and receiving it – is such a large part of “normal” human existence that we may not even be able to imagine or think what life would be like without it.



At least we need the choice of giving others a good dose of blame and condemnation when it seems appropriate, don't we?

We have great confidence in the power of condemnation to "straighten others out."

And if that fails, should we not at least make clear that we are on the side of what is right?



But what is it, exactly, that we do when we condemn someone? What we really communicate is that they are, in some deep and possibly irredeemable way, bad – bad as a whole, and to be rejected. In our eyes, the condemned are among the discards of human life. They are unacceptable. We sentence them to exclusion, however unintentionally...



CONDEMNATION ENGINEERING

Condemnation Engineering

1. Doesn't flow from **LOVE**



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

CONDEMNATION ENGINEERING

Condemnation Engineering

1. Doesn't flow from **LOVE**
2. Is a form of relational **COERCION**



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

CONDEMNATION ENGINEERING

Condemnation Engineering

1. Doesn't flow from **LOVE**
2. Is a form of relational **COERCION**
3. Is form of deconstruction without **RECONSTRUCTION**



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

CONDEMNATION ENGINEERING

Condemnation Engineering

1. Doesn't flow from **LOVE**
2. Is a form of relational **COERCION**
3. Is form of deconstruction without **RECONSTRUCTION**
4. Doesn't make allowance for the fact our judgments might, in fact, be **WRONG!**



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

FEEL BETTER ABOUT OURSELVES

Knocking someone else down
can **TEMPORARILY** make us
feel better about ourselves.

We enjoy feeling superior to them,
as we magnify their errors while
conveniently forgetting our own...



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

FALSE NARRATIVE

We tend to **JUDGE** people to “fix” them, or in an effort to make us feel better about ourselves

TRUE NARRATIVE

Judging others make it **IMPOSSIBLE** to genuinely love and help them



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful
LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

*Or how can you say to your neighbor,
“Let me take the speck out of your eye,”
while the log is in your own eye?
You hypocrite, first take the log*
out of your own eye, and then
you will see clearly to take the
speck out of your neighbor’s eye.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:4-5

*Or how can you say to your neighbor,
“Let me take the speck out of your eye,”
while the log is in your own eye?
You hypocrite, first take the log*
out of your own eye, and then
you will see clearly to take the
speck out of your neighbor’s eye.*

**** The log ≠ our own sin in general,
but the act of judging itself!***

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:4-5

*Or how can you say to your neighbor,
“Let me take the speck out of your eye,”
while the log is in your own eye?
You hypocrite, first take the log*
out of your own eye, and then
you will see clearly to take the
speck out of your neighbor’s eye.*

**** The goal is not convincing someone
you’re right and they’re wrong; the
goal is to find a way to genuinely help!***

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:4-5

*Do not give what is holy to dogs;
and do not throw your pearls
before swine, or they will
trample them under foot
and turn and maul you.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:6

Many think v.6 is disconnected from the previous section on judging...



Judging Others

7 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. **2** For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. **3** Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's^[a] eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your neighbour,^[b] "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's^[c] eye.

Profaning the Holy

6 'Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

Ask, Search, Knock

7 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **9** Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? **10** Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? **11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

12 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.



Many think v.6 is disconnected from the previous section on judging...

Almost everyone I have ever heard quote this verse uses it to describe a situation where one person is not worthy of another's ideas/opinions.

“Don't waste your brilliance on some dumb soul who can't understand it” (or “Don't waste your time on them, they're not worthy of it...”)



JAMES BRYAN
SMITH

When Jesus says we shouldn't give pearls to pigs, he isn't saying the pigs are unworthy, but that pigs cannot digest pearls. Pigs won't eat them! Try to do this long enough and the pigs will go hungry and attack... Just as pigs can't digest pearls, people can't digest being judged or condemned. It cannot meet their need.



JAMES BRYAN
SMITH

Even if our assessment is sound
(*which, again, is often debatable*),
the approach is wrong. They will
receive it just as pigs receive pearls.
They will go on the offensive.
That is how judgment works.
The judging person is not
being compassionate
and understanding,
but condescending.



Judging Others

7 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. **2** For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. **3** Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's^[a] eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your neighbour,^[b] "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's^[c] eye.

Profaning the Holy

6 'Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

Ask, Search, Knock

7 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **9** Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? **10** Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? **11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

12 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.



JESUS' BETTER APPROACH

1. Remove the log of judgment



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

JESUS' BETTER APPROACH

1. Remove the log of judgment
2. Ask, ask, and keep on asking by bringing the person and their situation to God in prayer



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

*Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be
opened for you. For everyone
who asks receives, and everyone
who searches finds, and for everyone
who knocks, the door will be opened.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:7-8

JESUS' BETTER APPROACH

1. Remove the log of judgment
2. Ask, ask, and keep on asking by bringing the person and their situation to God in prayer
3. Keep seeking God's wisdom, keep knocking to see if/how you can be of help



James Bryan Smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

JESUS' BETTER APPROACH

1. Remove the log of judgment
2. Ask, ask, and keep on asking by bringing the person and their situation to God in prayer
3. Keep seeking God's wisdom, keep knocking to see if/how you can be of help
4. Follow "the Golden Rule"



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful LIFE

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

*In everything do to others
as you would have them do to you;
for this is the law and the prophets.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

7:12

SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

Combatting the most pervasive form of judgment: GOSSIP

- Speaking negatively about someone who is not present
- Try to go three days without it...
- Interject something positive if/when possible/appropriate
- Walk away, refuse to participate



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful **LIFE**

PUTTING ON THE
CHARACTER OF CHRIST

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

A scenic mountain landscape. In the background, jagged mountain peaks are covered in snow under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The middle ground shows steep, green mountain slopes. In the foreground, a clear stream flows through a lush green meadow, surrounded by numerous bright pink and yellow wildflowers.

KINGDOM COMES

by Sara Groves

God of the foreigner and outcast,
your arms reach out to embrace
all those who call upon you.

Teach us, as disciples of Jesus,
to love all whom you have made,
that your name may be known
throughout the earth.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

