

# When in Romans part 6

## The Danger of Judgment: Walking in God's Kindness

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### Summary

This powerful exploration of Romans chapter 2 challenges us to examine the dangerous territory of judgment and self-righteousness. We're confronted with a paradox: while we're called to hold fellow believers accountable within the church through gentle restoration, we have no standing to condemn those outside our faith community. The message draws a stark contrast between Jesus' righteous anger toward religious hypocrites and His tender compassion toward ordinary sinners. We see Him overturning tables in the temple yet sitting gently with the woman at the well. This reveals a crucial truth: our harshest judgments should be reserved for ourselves, not others. The sermon dissects three toxic forms of judgment—hypocritical, presumptuous, and self-righteous—showing how each one places us in God's seat rather than at His feet. The most convicting insight is this: when we post harsh criticism on social media or gossip under the guise of prayer, we become the very Pharisees Jesus condemned. What transforms hearts isn't our accusations but God's kindness. His loving mercy leads people to repentance, not our condemnation. This message calls us to ruthless self-examination, asking whether we're quick to see specks in others' eyes while ignoring the beams in our own. It's an invitation to repent of our judgmental attitudes and remember that we stand righteous only because of Christ's blood, not our moral superiority.

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### Scripture References

#### **Explicitly Mentioned References:**

- Romans 1 (end of chapter) - List of sins
- Romans 2:1-11 - Main text of the sermon
- Galatians 6:1-2 - Restoring those caught in sin, carrying one another's burdens
- Matthew 7:3-5 - Speck and beam in the eye
- Luke 18:11 - The Pharisee's prayer
- Ephesians 2 (specifically verses 8-10) - Salvation by grace through faith, not by works

#### **Alluded to or Referenced Stories:**

- John 4 - Woman at the well (Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman)
- Matthew 21:12-13 / Mark 11:15-17 / Luke 19:45-46 / John 2:13-16 - Jesus cleansing the temple (money changers)

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## Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus' pattern of expressing anger toward religious leaders but showing gentleness to ordinary sinners challenge our own tendencies in judging others?
- In what ways might we be storing up wrath for ourselves through stubbornness and unrepentant hearts, as Paul warns in Romans 2:5?
- What does it mean practically to remove the beam from our own eye before addressing the speck in our brother's eye, and how can we cultivate this self-awareness?
- How can we distinguish between righteous judgment within the church that leads to restoration versus hypocritical judgment that condemns?
- Why do you think the church has historically been quick to condemn certain sins while excusing others, and how can we develop more consistent standards rooted in Scripture?
- What role does God's kindness play in leading people to repentance, and how should this shape our interactions with both believers and non-believers?
- How do we reconcile Paul's statement that God will reward each according to their works with the Protestant doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone?
- In what ways might our social media presence reflect either the kindness of God or the harsh judgment Paul warns against in Romans 2?
- What does it mean to be spiritual enough to restore someone caught in sin without falling into temptation ourselves, as described in Galatians 6?
- How can we maintain the balance of holding fellow believers accountable while avoiding the trap of self-righteousness and presumption?

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## 5-Day Devotional: Walking in Humble Judgment

### **Day 1: The Beam and the Speck**

#### **Reading: Matthew 7:1-5**

**Devotional:** Jesus confronts our tendency to judge others while ignoring our own faults. Before we attempt to help remove a speck from our brother's eye, we must first address the beam in our own. This isn't a call to abandon discernment, but to practice it with humility. Self-examination must precede correction. When we approach others about their struggles, we do so not from a position of superiority, but as fellow sinners

saved by grace. Today, ask God to reveal any "beams" in your life—areas of unconfessed sin or hypocrisy. Only when we've honestly dealt with our own shortcomings can we gently help restore others. True spiritual maturity recognizes that we're all desperately dependent on God's mercy.

## **Day 2: Gentle Restoration**

### **Reading: Galatians 6:1-5**

**Devotional:** Paul instructs us that restoration, not condemnation, should be our goal when addressing sin in the church. Notice the qualifications: "you who are spiritual" must restore "in a spirit of gentleness." This requires wisdom, maturity, and self-awareness. We must guard our own hearts, recognizing our vulnerability to the same temptations. Accountability isn't about proving we're better than someone else; it's about bearing one another's burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ—love. Consider someone in your life who may need gentle correction. Before approaching them, examine your motives. Are you seeking their restoration or your own validation? Pray for wisdom, humility, and the right words. Remember, the goal is always to bring people back to Jesus, not to elevate ourselves.

## **Day 3: God's Kindness Leads to Repentance**

### **Reading: Romans 2:1-4**

**Devotional:** We often forget that it's God's kindness—not harsh condemnation—that leads people to repentance. When we judge others self-righteously, we show contempt for the wealth of God's patience that was extended to us. The same mercy that saved us should characterize how we interact with others, especially those outside the faith. Reflect on your own journey to Christ. Was it someone's angry accusations that drew you to Him, or was it the demonstration of His love? Today, consider how you speak about non-believers. Do your words reflect judgment or invitation? Ask God to help you see people as He sees them—lost sheep in need of a Good Shepherd, not enemies to condemn. Let kindness, not criticism, mark your witness.

## **Day 4: Hypocrisy Exposed**

### **Reading: Luke 18:9-14**

**Devotional:** The Pharisee's prayer reveals the danger of self-righteousness. He thanked God that he wasn't like "other people," completely blind to his own spiritual poverty. Meanwhile, the tax collector could only cry out for mercy—and he went home justified. How often do we compare ourselves favorably to others, especially when pointing out their sins? We call out certain sins while excusing our own. We judge one politician's moral failures while defending another's. This selective judgment exposes our hypocrisy. Today, adopt the tax collector's posture: "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Before you critique anyone else's behavior, spend time in honest confession. Remember that any righteousness you possess comes entirely from Christ, not from your moral superiority. Humility is the antidote to hypocrisy.

## **Day 5: Works That Flow from Faith**

### **Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10**

**Devotional:** We are saved by grace through faith—not by works. Yet God has prepared good works for us to walk in. These truths aren't contradictory; they're complementary. Salvation is entirely God's gift, but genuine faith naturally produces fruit. We don't work to earn God's love; we work because we've received it. When Paul speaks of God rewarding according to works, he's not contradicting grace—he's affirming that true faith transforms us. A tree is known by its fruit. Today, examine your life: What fruit is your faith producing? Are you serving others, showing kindness, pursuing justice, and speaking truth in love? These aren't requirements for salvation but evidence of it. Ask God to cultivate in you a heart that naturally overflows with good works, not from obligation but from gratitude for His amazing grace.

**Reflection Question for the Week:** How can you demonstrate God's kindness to someone you've been tempted to judge this week?