

December 2, 2018

## ***Jesus is my Lord!***

***"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you find; knock and the door will be opened for you...So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."***  
Matthew 7:1-12

Jesus told his disciples, ***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*** (John 13:34-35) Our walk with Jesus will always be obvious in the way we treat others. How important is our life style of love for others? There are at least 100 ***"one another"*** passages in the New Testament focusing on how we treat others. One third of them command Jesus' followers to love one another. Obviously the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that loving others matters.

If Jesus is our Lord, then treating others according to this commandment is essential. In his "Sermon on the Mount" our Lord addresses this issue again. First, he commands ***"Do not judge..."*** and he warns us, ***"...in the same way you judge others, you will be judged..."***

Judging and condemning others is a constant temptation isn't it? It seems like everyone is doing it. I judge you for the way you dress, or for the way you cut your hair, or for the way you vote, or the way you drive, or... I am so easily offended and so, so very quick to condemn. Jesus commands me, ***"Do not judge..."***, so, every time I judge, I am condemning myself.

Why? The truth is I am as guilty as every person I might judge and condemn. Someone tells lies; so do I. Someone cheats or steals; so do I. Someone hates; so do I. I have no business judging others because I am no less a sinner than anyone else. Jesus would tell me, ***"...take the plank (my sins) out of your own eye..."*** before even thinking about judging someone else.

My focus, instead, needs to be on my own search for a saving relationship with my Lord. I am not qualified to judge and condemn others, because like them, I am a sinner. In my hunger for the righteousness that God gives I need to search for my Lord's direction in my life. I need to turn to him over and over again for direction in every moment of my life. Jesus would tell me, ***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you find; knock and the door will be opened for you..."***

So, whatever the issue, I need first to turn for direction to the one who is my Lord. My opinion carries no weight; his direction is all that matters. How I treat others must meet his standard, no matter what I may think or feel.

Jesus commands, ***"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."*** and he tells me this one commandment sums up all the rest. Every action and every attitude must meet this standard because Jesus is my Lord. In every relationship my attitudes and actions must be guided by this standard.

How should I treat the poor? If I were poor how would I want to be treated? How should I treat the sinner? As a sinner myself, how do I want to be treated? Every thing I do and/or say must be informed by this one command: ***"...do to others what you would have them do to you."*** But, we might argue, 'those people...' How often do we use labels like 'those people' to judge and condemn others? Go back to where Jesus started; ***"Do not judge..."*** If I am willing to be humbled by my own overwhelming need for God's mercy and grace, then I cannot judge others. 'Those people', no matter



who we might want to decide they are, are you and me. I am not better than, more righteous than, or more superior in any way to anyone else. When I give up judging others, then I can begin to live "...*do to others...*" It is my tendency to count myself better than or different than others in some way, that causes me to break my Lord's most important command.

Jesus says, "...*in everything do to others what you would have them do to you.*" He makes no exceptions and he accepts no excuses. If my love for others is the loudest testimony of my honest discipleship, then how I treat others must be the keystone of my living faith.

