

Sermon Questions

Moral and Ethical Discernment – How Do We Make Them in a Biblical Way?

Romans 2:1-4

Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- What sorts of judgments do people make on a daily basis? (Think broadly about this)

GROW:

- Read Romans 2:1-4. What repeated pronoun do you see in this text? How is that different from the pronouns you see in Romans 1:29-32? What is Paul getting after here?
- When people make condemning judgments about others, what tend to be their motives?
- How do the following Scriptures sober all of us up when we are tempted to condemn the actions of others (see 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 5:21-22 and 27-28)?
- What is the difference between moral discernment and condeming judgmentalism? What is the ultimate aim in the “judgments” we make as Christians (see Galatians 6:1)?
- How does God’s kindness lead us to repentance?

GO:

- What is a step you can take to help you be more appalled at your own sin than the sins of others (see Isaiah 53:4-6 and Romans 5:6-11)? From that mindset, is there someone you need to approach? How will you approach that person?

Sermon Notes

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Keys to Godly discernment (Godly judgment and evaluation) on Biblical, moral and ethical issues (Romans 2:1-4; Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 7:1-5).

1. Godly discernment comes from a spirit of humility, knowing that we too are sinners in need of God’s grace.
2. Godly discernment is about moral and ethical evaluations which correspond to Scripture—they are not to be about personal bias or preference. “What does God say?”—this is what matters.
3. Godly discernment is about bringing glory and honor to God. Godly discernment is redemptive.
4. Godly discernment knows the gravity and destruction of sin, and thus seeks to warn oneself, and others, to turn from sin, and towards righteousness.
5. Godly discernment does not actively seek to embarrass others as a weapon, thus causing unnecessary hurt.

