

I have a Q: Why is God So Judgemental

Matt VanCleave

October 29, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will support the gifts of women at Blue Oaks.
- I will honor and value women as Jesus did.
- I will cheer on the women in my life.
- I will pray for God to use the women of Blue Oaks to reach their full potential.
- I will be someone women can trust and rely on.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

A lot of people have this concern that Christianity is like a straitjacket on belief and behavior. A lot of people believe, to be a Christian means to be a rule-following, box-checking, robotic, unthinking, judgmental, inflexible, severe, self-righteous, pleasure-avoiding sheep.

People wonder, "Does being a Christian mean you allow some other force to arbitrarily tell you what you can and cannot do, what you can and cannot believe whether it makes sense to you or not?"

Join us Sunday as we look at how the writers of Scripture viewed God. It's very different than this straitjacket idea. It's actually so different than this judgmental, legalistic character that it may be kind of shocking to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Gallup did a survey that found Americans most common view of God is an authoritarian, angry, judgmental God who is ready to judge the unfaithful or ungodly. What do you think of this?

2. Luke 18:14 says “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” And James 4:6 says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Why do you believe that God has such a big problem with pride?

3. Pastor Matt said the thing that keeps many people away from God – is proud, arrogant, angry, pompous, judgmental Christians. How do you feel about this?

4. In John 8 the Pharisees bring a woman “caught in adultery” to Jesus in order to trap Him. What did Jesus do and say in response? Why do you think Jesus did not judge her?

5. Romans 15:7 says, “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” What does this mean to you?

6. Genesis 3:1 says, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree of the garden’? Adam and Eve failed to answer Satan’s twisted question correctly. How do you believe Adam and Eve should have responded?”

7. II Peter 2:19 says, “..People are slaves to whatever has mastered them.” You are FREE to act in disobedience to God’s commands. When you disobey God’s commands do you actually feel free? How do you feel?

8. When you have a conversation with someone who says something like, “Christians are intolerant and judgmental and that’s why I don’t go to church, etc.” What do you want to say in response to them?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will study the life and teaching of Jesus to understand God's character.
- I will accept others just as Christ has accepted me.
- I will be an extender of grace.
- I believe God's commands were given to bless my life.
- I will surrender to God and trust him to set me free.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 14:9
- Romans 15:7
- Luke 18:9-14
- Luke 18:14
- James 4:6
- John 8
- John 8:5
- John 8:10-11
- Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 2:16-17
- Genesis 2:9
- Genesis 1:28
- Psalm 119:20
- Psalm 1:2
- Psalm 119:131
- Genesis 3:1
- Genesis 3:2-3
- Leviticus 24:19-20
- 2 Peter 2:19
- Galatians 5:13

Prayer Request(s)

