

**Chapter 5 Myth: Christians Shouldn't Judge**

In Chapter 5, Osborne develops the ideas for how a Christian should judge others. He is careful to note the need for personal and daily repentance through self-examination. And, he urges us to reframe from finger pointing and the blame game which only result in personal attacks, bitterness, raging anger and real explosive situations. Osborne points out that some of us avoid judging to avoid the exposure of wrongdoing in our own lives. We may also refuse to take hold of our responsibility to hold up a mirror to those in our lives because we are too afraid of the social repercussions; or we logic that “it is none of our business,” or we just don’t want to invest the time it takes, or we “don’t care.” Osborne is quick to point out how tolerance has shifted from an opportunity to bring others to know the universal truths of God’s story to affirming that everyone is right not matter what they believe or what they do. Osborne alludes to Matthew 18 and how w are to deal with an erring brother.

**Correction of Christian / Non-Christian p 82**

God does not want a single one to perish. We are the light of the world—and as God’s redeemed and sanctified children, we can well bear the criticism of the world, because such worldly criticism does not strike truth. With the Word of God and a conscience made clean by the blood of Christ, God’s children can afford to look the whole world in the face; we can take a stand! 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 13-16 tell us in what spirit Paul came to Corinth. It proves that the Gospel is the wisdom of the mystery of God, and it explains how the Spirit reveals this mystery by verbal inspiration in the Gospel, thus enabling believers to form correct judgments of all human states and affairs! WOW!

1. How do the ‘Blame Game’ and ‘Finger Pointing’ impact our relationships with one another?
2. Have you ever witnessed a ‘log’ removing a ‘splinter’? How did this go for the people involved?
3. Read Matthew 7: 1-5
4. Read Genesis 3:11-13
5. Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:9-11
6. Read Lamentations 3:32-33
7. Why is self-examination important prior to reaching out, helping, and admonishing others?

8. Read Philippians 1:6
9. How much of a role does prayer play in the self-examination process? What about in those situations that are crying out for judgment?
10. What is 'tolerance'?
11. What is meant by 'autonomy'?
12. Are there Universal Moral Standards?
13. Do you agree that Judgment is like *Nuclear Fuel*?
14. Read the last chapter in Jonah. Why is Jonah upset? How does God respond? What does this tell us about judgment?
15. What does the saying... '*Hate the sin; Love the sinner*'...mean for us in our relationships with one another?
16. What is the ultimate goal for Christians when judging others?