



WEEK THREE

Insiders and Outsiders

August 9 & 10, 2014

Pastor Ken Ingold

Too often, followers of Jesus judge nonbelievers while failing to hold themselves and other followers of Jesus accountable for their behavior.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “judge” or “judgment” what comes to mind? Is it a positive or negative response?

Why do you think that is the case?

2. Why do you think the church as a whole is often characterized as being too judgmental?

3. To judge something is to “arrive at a conclusion after careful thought.” What does “careful thought” entail?

What is the purpose for arriving at a conclusion? Does judgment require action of some kind?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:12. How does this passage challenge your assumptions about what the Bible says regarding judging others? How does it square with Matthew 7:1–2?

5. Now look at 1 Corinthians 5:1-9. Why do you think the early Corinthian church was looking the other way when someone in their body was living a life of blatant sin?

What was the danger in that, according to Paul?

6. What are some probable excuses for not speaking up when a fellow believer is stuck in a sin pattern?

Which excuse is the one that feels most personal to you?

7. What is the difference between pronouncing judgment on someone and speaking the truth in love to them? (see Ephesians 4:15).

Why does God hold us accountable to speak the truth in love to other believers?

8. Consider this quote by author and pastor Andy Stanley: “If you’re a follower of Jesus, nonbelievers expect you to act like Jesus. They expect you to care about and value the things that Jesus cared about and valued. They judge your likeness to Jesus largely on the way you react and respond to people outside the faith. And you know what? They’re right to do so.” Do you agree that as Jesus-followers, we are expected to value what Jesus valued?

Personal Meditation: Think about someone in your sphere of influence who is difficult to love. What is it about that person that makes him or her a challenge? What is one thing you can do this week to reflect Jesus to that person by how you love him or her?

Memorize Galatians 6:1: “Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.”