

22 Judgment - Judging others

Here are some points and questions for you to discuss.

Prejudice



Galatians 3:26-29

What does this say about how we should regard people? Should we judge people's looks, colour, sex, intellectual and social standing? Does it happen in society generally? Amongst Christians? So does this mean that you should never form any opinion of anyone about anything, based on their appearance? Really?

Don't Judge?

Romans 2:1-4; Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:37-42



Are we qualified to judge one another? Do you think there are some situations where we might be and others where we aren't? How do you tell the difference?

Forgiving others

Matthew 6:9-14



How successful are we at fulfilling the conditions for obtaining forgiveness?

When someone sins

Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11



If we definitely know someone is breaking God's commandments how should we go about dealing with the problem? Should an ecclesia ever refuse fellowship to anyone? If so, what should be the purpose of it?

Are you as bad?

Cathy comes to you in tears and tells you how Rachel has been saying unkind things about her to the rest of your friends. You had joined in this gossiping the previous week. Do you

- remember and feel guilty,
- remember and think Cathy deserved it,
- remember and immediately push it from your mind,
- or would you not have remembered your part in it at all?

Do you

- confess to Cathy,
- keep quiet but make up your mind not to do it again,
- tell Cathy not to make a fuss

What do you say to Rachel and the others?



When someone confesses to doing something wrong ...

You are a parent. Your son comes to you and confesses tearfully that he has stolen a bicycle from a friend and sold it, then gone out on Friday night and spent the money. He says that he is truly ashamed and promises never to do the same again. Of the principles you have discussed in the last two topics, which are relevant to this situation? What do you do?

... and when they don't

Your daughter did not realise that you saw her when she took some money from your pocket so that she could buy some sweets. When you ask her about it she denies taking the money and complains that you never give her enough anyway. What do you do?

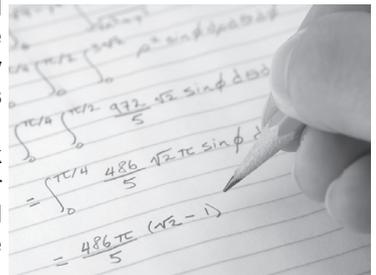
Discrimination

It is a fact that some groups of people are discriminated against. Before you discuss this situation think of real people you know who are of a different nationality to the majority, different colour, physically or mentally handicapped, with perhaps a police record and try to think how you would really feel rather than how you know you ought to feel.

There has been a spate of stealing at your place of work or school. Someone accuses this person you know. What is your reaction? Is there anyone in your list of people that you might without any foundation think is more likely to be guilty? Think of some different accusations such as bullying, cheating or sexual harassment.

Feeling guilty?

The test was terrible. You hadn't worked very hard at school, and then when you sat down and read the questions you realised you were going to do very badly. It was pure chance that your friend Simon is very good at maths, was sitting only a few feet away, and is right-handed, which meant that you could look across and read what he was writing. Your teacher had some suspicions when she realised that you had got one of the questions wrong in exactly the same way as Simon had, but she couldn't prove anything. Now you're feeling guilty, and wondering if you should tell anyone. Should you? What would that person say to you if you did?



How can you try to treat other people better?