**Judgement and Accountability**

**Have you ever been judged?  How did it make you feel?**

**When you judged someone else, what was the reason?**

**No one likes to be judged unfairly.  But if we see something that looks out of place, should wrong actions never the addressed?   What about accountability?  Is it possible to hold someone accountable without judging them?**

**Judgment**

**Ask:** **What does the word judgment mean to you?**  **How would you define it? (Think about this before moving on)**

* **Cambridge University Press: Judge/verb:**
  + **to form, give or have as an opinion, or to decide about something or someone, especially after thinking carefully.**
* **Judgment/noun:**
  + **the ability to form valuable opinions and make good decisions**
  + **A decision or opinion about someone or something that you form after thinking carefully**

**Statement:** **Do you see how the definitions differ from what we talked about and what the dictionary suggests???**

**What does the bible say about judgment?**

**Matthew 7:1-5 – “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

**What does this scripture mean to you?**

*Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

* Have you ever tried reaching out to someone to help them?  How did it go?

**Should wrong actions never be addressed?  We’re here to build one another up.**

**Ephesians 4:11-15 -** **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**

* I believe the next verse expresses: “How can we do it in a fashion that is being obedient to God?”

**James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

* This doesn’t necessarily mean that God will open up the heavens and give you the answer, but often enough, I have seen it where God has put people, opportunities or road signs out for those that are listening.  This is where those people around you who are going in the same direction as you, can help with discernment or biblical guidance.  There is also the option of speaking with a whole host of pastors and counselors within Fellowship and the community.

**Armor of God**

**Ephesians 6: 13-20 -** **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.  Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

**Accountability – what is it?**

**Going back to the Cambridge dictionary:**

* **Accountable/adjective: Someone who is accountable is completely responsible for what they do and must be able to give a satisfactory reason for it**

**Matthew 12:36 -** **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

* Judgment falls on all of us, whether we take responsibilities for our own actions or not.

**Is it possible to hold someone accountable without judging them?**

**Back to Ephesians 4:15**

* **I think that it is important here, to apply the correct definition of judgment and to speak from the heart as opposed to the mind.**

**Mat 7:15-16,22-23 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?**

**Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**

* This is where discernment comes in – to determine those who are healthy and unhealthy to be in your “circle” of trust.

**James 3:1 -** **My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.**

**Take Away:**  **Christian accountability cannot exist without a right or wrong assessment of actions. But HOW the accountability is communicated differentiates Godly accountability from worldly judgment.**