

# JUDGING OTHERS

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 22, 2016 • Elder Luke Schaub

**“Judge not, that you not be judged. For with the same judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”-Matthew 7:1-3**

- I. **Judge not...** (John 12:47; Romans 14:4; James 4:12; John 8:11; Galatians 1:8; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Romans 2:14-16)
  - A. What judging is, and isn’t.
  - B. God judges outside the church.
  - C. But when we judge...
- II. **Judgment is a Boomerang** (Romans 2:1; Luke 6:37)
  - A. From God.
  - B. From those we judge.
- III. **Blinded by Self-Righteousness** (Galatians 6:3; Luke 18:10-14)
  - A. Specks and logs
  - B. Self-Righteousness
- IV. **Ophthalmologist, Heal Thyself** (Psalm 51:9-10, 13; 1 Timothy 5:20; Galatians 6:1)
  - A. Heal yourself first.
  - B. Addressing sin in others.
- V. **Dogs and Pigs** (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- VI. **So what do we do about sin?**



**Judging Others  
(Matthew 7:1-6)**

# The world perceives us as judgmental

**87% of non-Christians under 30 believe Christians are judgmental (Half of Christians under 30 agree)**

*“Christians are just trying to justify feelings of moral superiority.”*

*“They like to hear themselves talk, and are arrogant about their beliefs.”*

*“They don’t seem to be very compassionate.”*

*“They say ‘Love the sinner, but hate the sin’ but they act like they hate both.”*

# Context for Matt 7:1-6

- **Theme of The Sermon on the Mount:**  
**The Heart of Citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven**
  - Kingdom Life with God
    - Giving (6:1-4)
    - Prayer (6:5-15)
    - Fasting (16-18)
  - Kingdom Life with self
    - What do we value (6:19-24)
    - Why do we worry (6:25-34)
  - Kingdom Life with others
    - Being Judgmental (7:1-6)
    - The Golden Rule: Love others (7:7-12)

# Matthew 7:1-6

**“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”**

**“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”**

# **“Judge not”**

**Not judging others is a consistent theme of scripture:**

- **If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.**  
**John 12:47**
- **Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?**  
**Romans 14:4**
- **There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?**  
**James 4:12**

# What Judging Is...

**Judge - To separate, choose, select, or determine**

**Judgmental - To condemn; to cast blame on someone in a way that communicates they are a bad person**

“Judging” is about what people Are rather than what they Do



# What Judging is Not...

- Judging is different from proclaiming truth
  - We all must answer to a holy judge who hates sin
  - We cannot surrender God's Law to our culture

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

- The Good News (Gospel) is only relevant in the context of sin
  - If there is no sin, there is no need for a savior
- While sinners may reject the truth of sin, we cannot

Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. John 8:11

“Proclaiming truth” is about what God desires, rather than who violates it



# What Judging is Not...

- Judging is different from discerning truth
  - Discerning scriptural error needed for church health
  - Discerning sin in the church needed for church health
- Those who face correction in the church may feel judged
  - But this form of judgment/discernment is different from our passage today and is frequently commanded in Scripture

**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.**

**Gal 1:8**

**“Discerning Truth” only happens in the church, to correct error**

# Judging non-Christians vs Christians

## 1 Cor 5:9-13

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.

# “God Judges Those Outside”

**Rom 2:14-16**

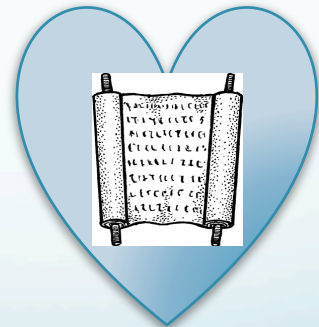
For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.



**The Mind**



**The Conscience**

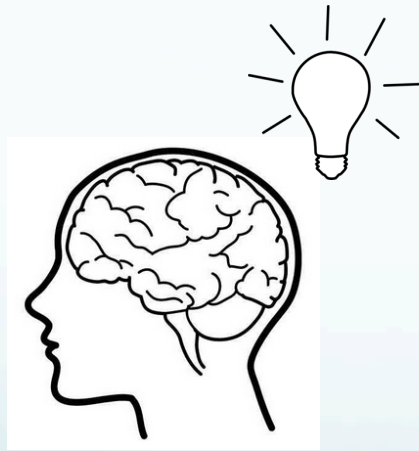


**The Heart  
with The Law**

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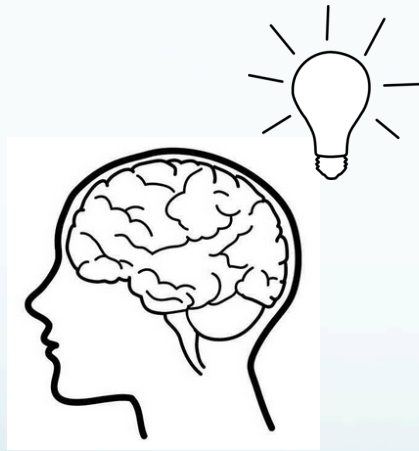


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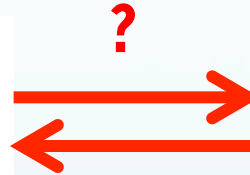
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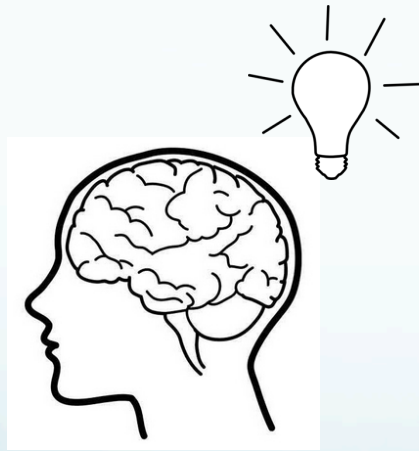


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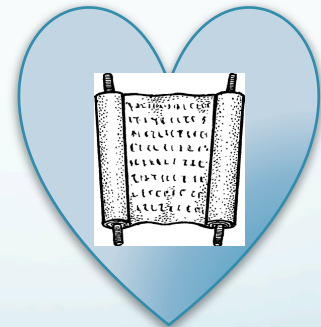
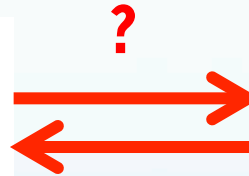
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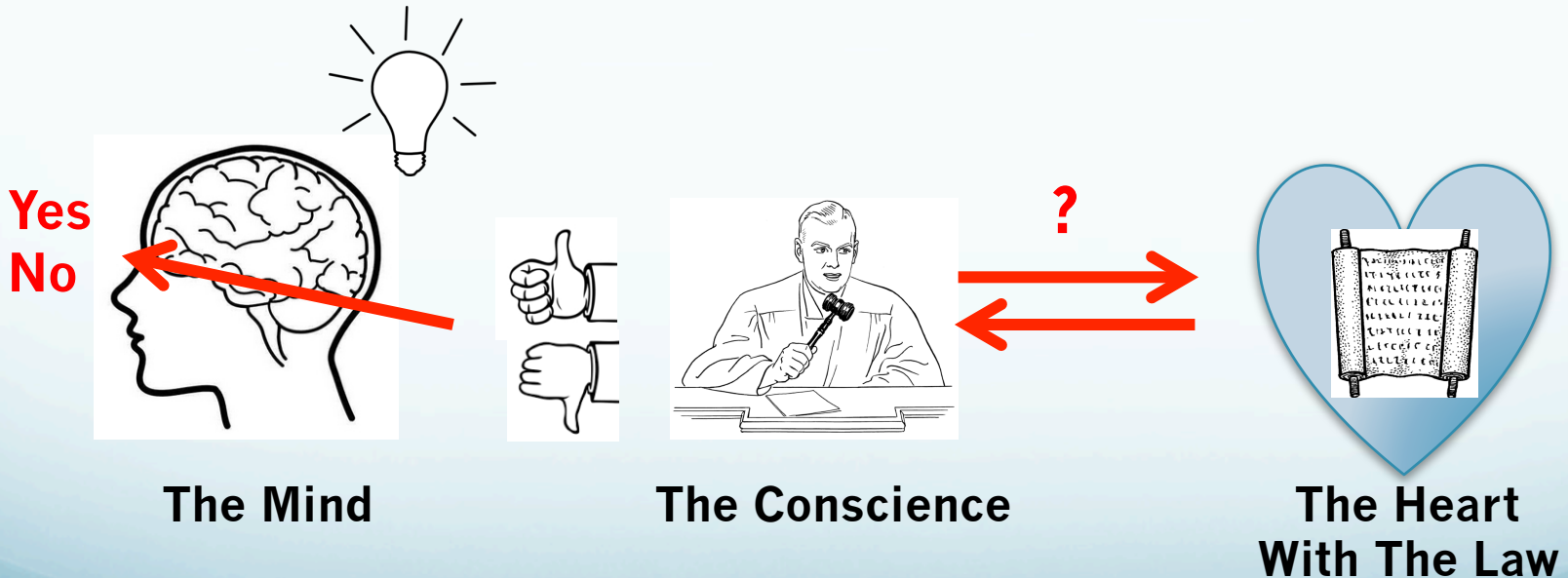


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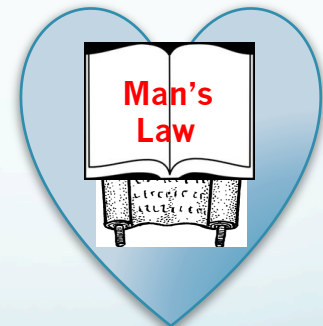
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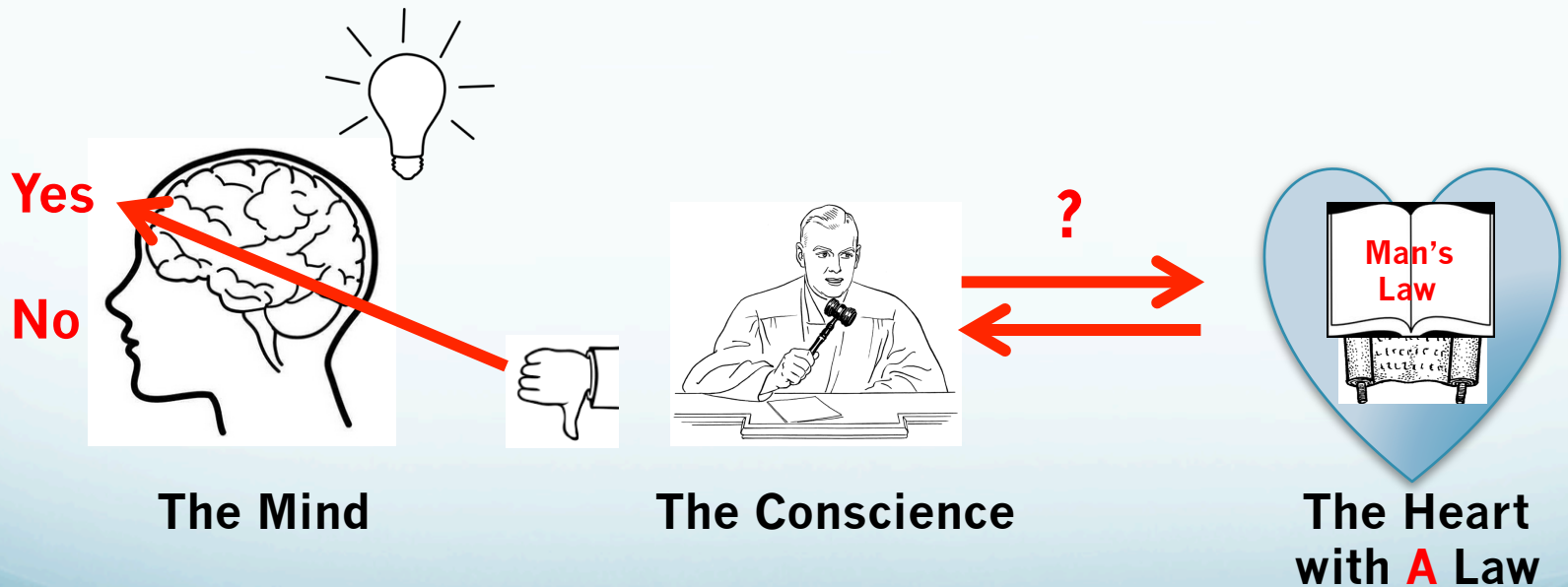


The Heart  
with **A** Law

# “God Judges Those Outside”

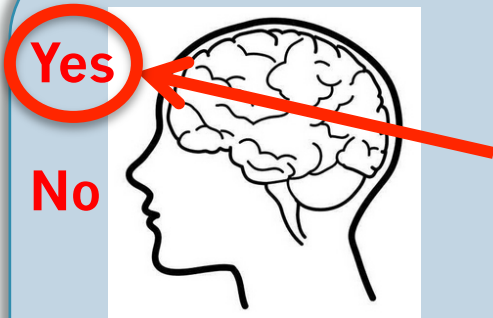
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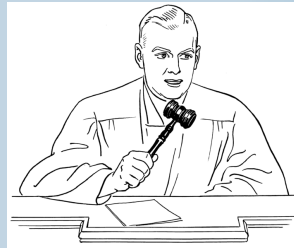


# But When We Judge...

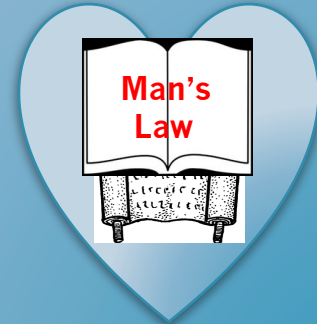
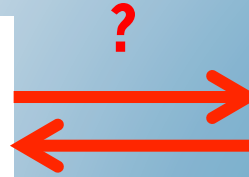
**Non-Christian**



**The Mind**

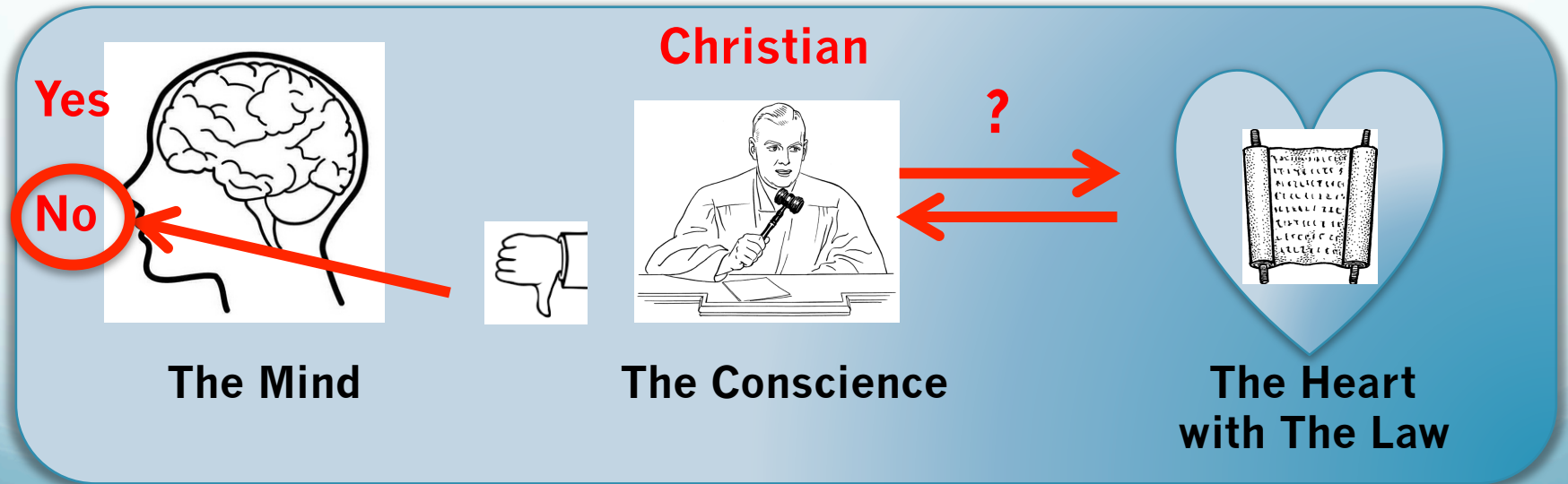


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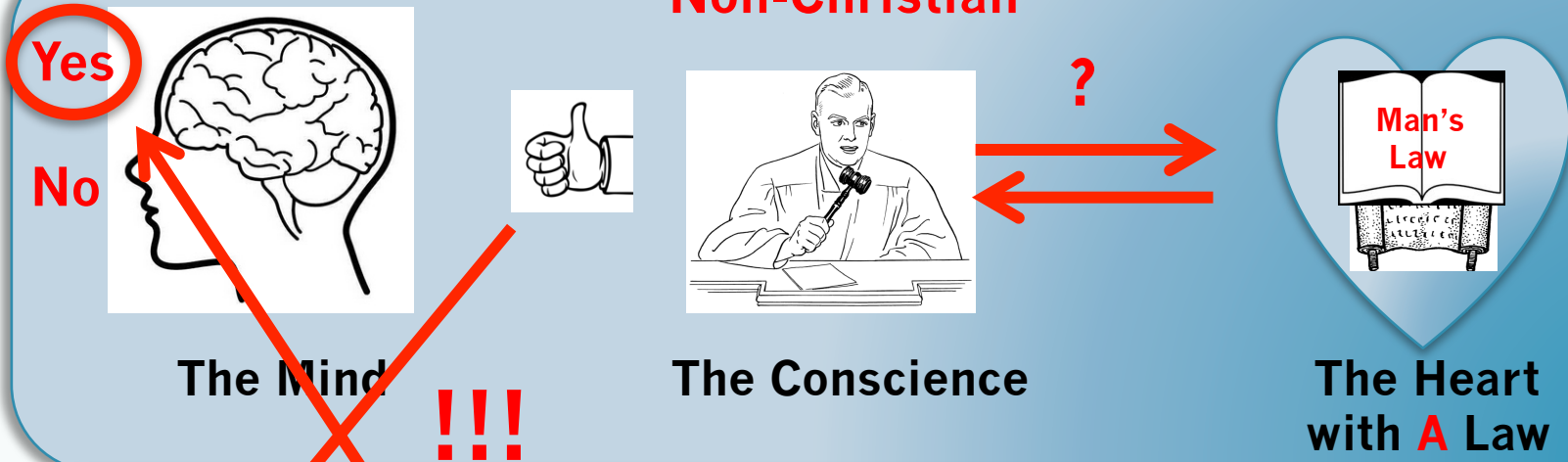
**The Heart  
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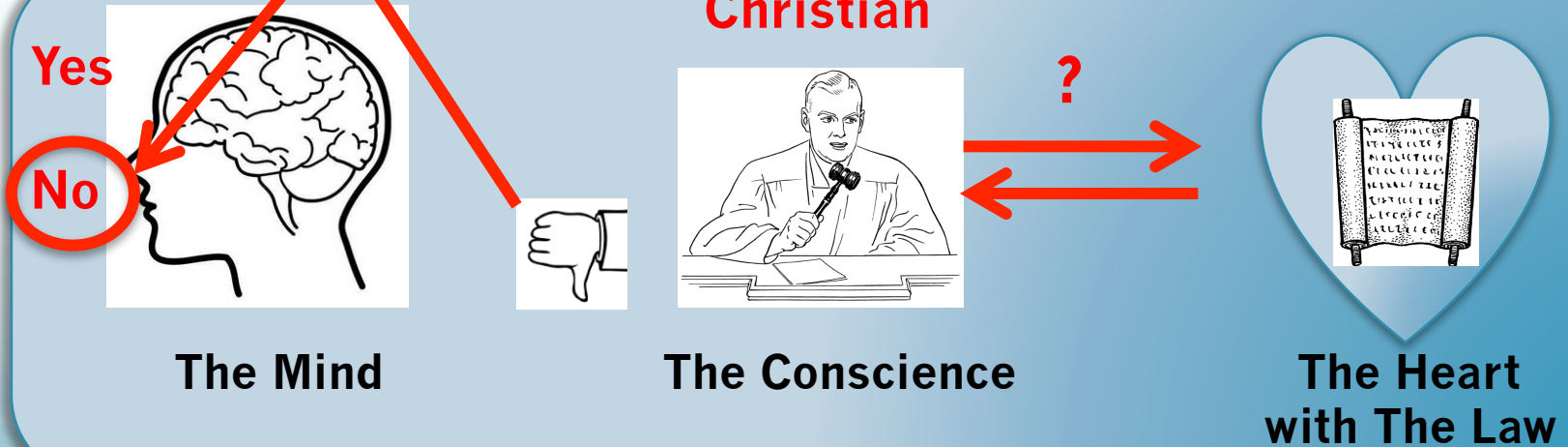


# But When We Judge...

## Non-Christian



## Christian





But When We Judge...



**“I condemn you! You are WRONG! You are BAD!”**

# “Judge not”

## Errors in Judgment:

- Wrong Understanding of the heart
- Wrong Verdict – Judging by the surface, rather than heart
- Wrong Timing – Quick to find fault, insensitivity to recent pain
- Wrong Motives – Self-righteousness, anger, need to be right
  - “I’ll do God a favor and judge for him...”



# Judgment is a Boomerang

...that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

**When we judge, it comes right back at us:**

- **From God**: Holds us to the same standard we use on others

**Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. (Romans 2:1)**

- **From those we judge**: Counterattack
  - “Who gave you the right to judge me?”
  - “Hypocrite!”
  - “You are full of hate.”

**Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven (Luke 6:37)**

# Blinded by Self-Righteousness

**Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?**

## **An Illustration: specks and logs**

- **Hyperbole: intentionally exaggerated to make a point**
- **Where is the speck? Eye of a brother (fellow Christian)**
- **What is the speck? Sin**
- **What is the log? Self-Righteousness**
  - By the standards we create, others sin and we don't
    - "I don't have THAT speck in my eye."
  - But our self-righteousness blinds us to our self-righteousness

**For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

**(Galatians 6:3)**

# Blinded by Self-Righteousness

**Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?**

## **What does self-righteousness look like?**

**Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**

**(Luke 18:10–14)**

# Ophthalmologist, Heal Thyself (Luke 4:23ish)

Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

**“Hypocrite! Heal yourself first.”**

- Self-righteousness NEVER fixes unrighteousness
- Humility, thankfulness, hunger for righteousness



**Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

**(Psalms 51:9–10, 13)**

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**Only then are we ready to address sin in other Christians**

- **Jesus is clear that both the log and speck need to be removed**
  - **No place for: “You have no right...” or “Mind your own business...”**

**“As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.”**

**1 Timothy 5:20**

# Ophthalmologist, Heal Thyself (Luke 4:23ish)

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## Addressing sin without judgmentalism is not easy:

**“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”**

**(Galatians 6:1)**

- It requires spiritual maturity
- The purpose should be to restore, not judge or punish
- It must be done with gentleness and love
- We must guard against self-righteousness creeping back in



# Dogs and Pigs

**Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.**





# Dogs and Pigs

**Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.**

**Giving a wild dog something holy is futile**



**Giving a wild pig something precious is wasteful**



**They are more likely to attack you than appreciate what you've provided them**

# Dogs and Pigs

**Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.**

## **So, what's the point?**

- **Certain truths and blessings are not to be shared with people who are completely antagonistic to the things of God**
- **They are, spiritually, like dogs & pigs**
  - **They have no appreciation for God's Holy and Precious Word**
  - **It is foolishness to them--they are as likely to attack as walk away**
  - **(The illustration is NOT saying they lack value as people)**
- **We must discern (judge) who is closed to spiritual truth and know when to “shake the dust off our feet” and move on**

**The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

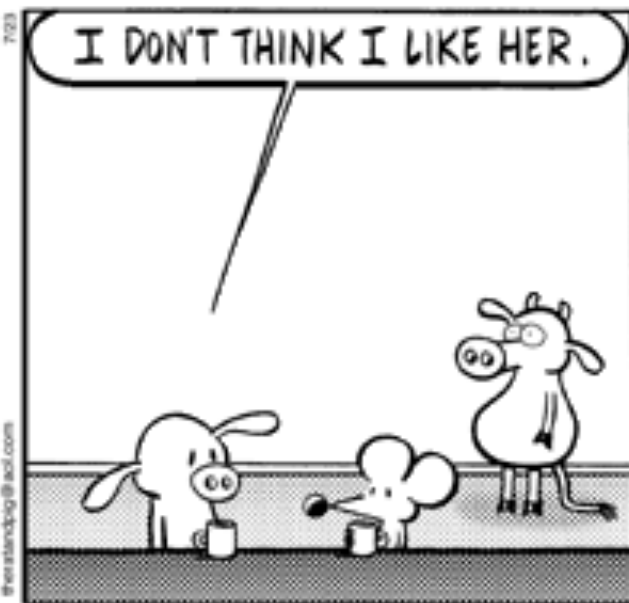
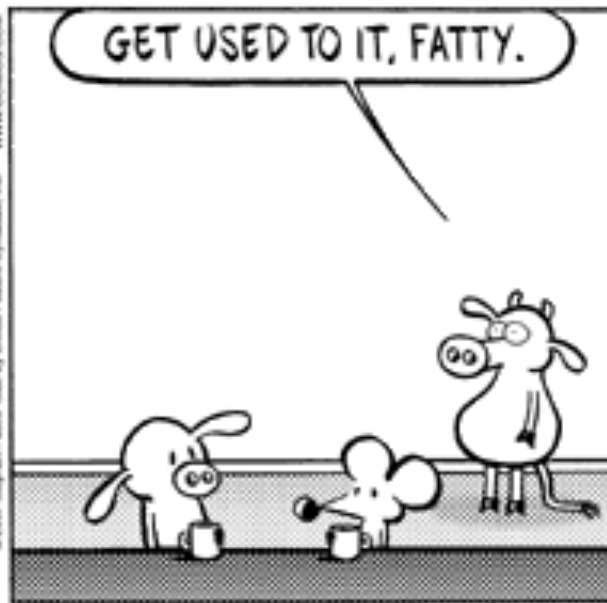
**1 Corinthians 2:14**

# So What Do We Do About Sin?

**Right motive: restoration, rather than correction**

- **Non-Christian: Love, Share (don't judge)**
  - **Motive: a changed heart**
- **For the Christian: Discern**
  - **Motive: return to a God-honoring life**
- **On the public square: Proclaim**
  - **Motive: that all will know the Gospel**

# Judge Not!



# GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 7 • MATTHEW 7:1-6

1. What did Jesus mean by His command not to judge others? Some feel that if we defend the Biblical view of sin, we are being judgmental. Do you agree?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. What is Paul's direction regarding those outside the church? Have you ever disregarded this direction? If so, how did it go?
3. The log in Matthew 6 is often identified as self-righteousness. Read Luke 18:10-14 for a picture of self-righteousness. What do you think self-righteousness looks like in the church today?
4. If you found out a close friend or family member, who is not a Christian, was continually engaged in sin, how **would** you react? How **should** you react?

## YOUR ABILITY TO TRUST

### Have you ever asked....

"Why can't I just be close to people and stay that way?"

"Why do I still run from people after all this time?"

### Have you ever heard...

"Why can't you just understand that you're loved and get on with it?"

"I think you are being selfish and lazy."

### THIS HAPPENS WITH GOD TOO

**How difficult has it been for you to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him" (Proverbs 3:5-6)?**

God asks us to trust Him... Psalm 56:3

But how can you trust God if you don't have the ability to trust anyone or anything?

"Basic trust is the ability to hold one's self open and vulnerable to another; dropping all defensiveness and guard, without questioning the other's motives." -Dr. James G. Johnson, *Grace: Orphans No More*.

It includes:

1. Being absolutely convinced of the good intentions of another person.
2. Having no doubt that the other person's motives are pure and free of malice.
3. Becoming willing and vulnerable to holding one's self open to another, even in the face of circumstances that seem questionable.

### TRUSTABILITY IS A MEASUREMENT

Before the age of 4, you have already formed your capacity to give and receive trust. -*Parenting from the Inside Out*

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you trust others?**

**Your friends?**

**Your spouse?**

**Your family?**

**Your boss?**

**Your children?**

**Your coworkers?**

**Do you remember a time when you deeply trusted someone? What did it feel like?**