

Assurance of Salvation Part 3c Issues: About "judging" people

Background

- This was not a slide presentation; it was a skit.
- Due to HVAC failure, we had to meet in a room that did not have a video projector. The planned next topic had to be postponed.
- Below is a brief summary. Specific details related to the "skit" part are not important, because they are/were improvised on the spot.
- The first person is an "imposter" of the 2nd; so (in reality) it's the same person, with slight appearance changes made.

(Except where specified, the included pictures are all public domain.)

Part 1a...

- Stagger to the front with props in a bag.
- Describe (with slurred talk) about still trying to recover from "last night's" drunken revelry.
- Empty wine bottle as prop. ("and after finishing it, I got thirsty and had to get another drink ...")



Part 1b...

- Begin talking about time/activities with beautiful women. (generalities said in a discrete manner)
- Talk gets interrupted by another person (pre-planned).
- Person asks something like: "Are you sure you're really saved?"



Part 1c

Response: Defend one's salvation...

- Hold up printed sign, "Who are you to judge me?"
- 1) I "prayed the prayer," so I'm saved.
- 2) I got baptized, so that's even more guarantee I'm saved.

Who are
you to
judge me?

Part 1d

(continued) Furthermore...

- Besides that, I even have a "get out of hell free" card! (show the card) The devil can't take me!
- In addition, God promises to forgive me when I ask him – the Bible says so! So he's obligated to forgive me every time I demand him to do so. It's like a magic formula - I've got it made!



Part 1e

[transition] Exit the room...

- I'll be back as soon as I get something for my hangover!
- Stagger out of the room.
- LEAVE the PROPS, including the bottle.

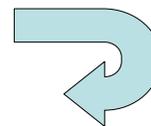


(but leave the bottle behind)

Part 2a

[transition] Enter the room...

- (In a back room) Quickly make some change – coat, etc. – to look a little different. (= like a twin)
- Enter the room (different door, if possible). NOT acting drunk.
- "Hey, has anyone seen that imposter?" "Locked me in the [room, trunk or car, or etc.]"



Part 2b

- Ask what the imposter talked about; see the props; etc.
- Show how the imposter distorted the concept of "forgiveness" – turning it into an excuse for sin.
- Respond to the imposter's "who are you" sign with a different "who are you" question (sign on paper)... "Who are you to refuse to obey God?" – because God *commands* us to judge. (next page)

Who are you to refuse to obey God?

Part 2c

We have an obligation to judge:

Talk about some of the places in the Bible in which:

- we are commanded to judge others
- the apostles do so
- we are shown examples of it
- Jesus' teaching about church discipline
- Paul's command to excommunicate unrepentant people from the church....
- etc.



Part 2d

Sure, those being judged may get defensive and say "How dare you judge me?"

But how can you claim to love a person and *refuse* to warn him ...

- If he is living in sin?
- If there is no evidence of salvation in his life?



Part 2e

Typical excuses people bring up, to "justify" their unwillingness to confront someone ... (examples):

- Out of context verses about "not judging."
- Not wanting to "hurt their feelings." – How is it "love" to refuse to "hurt their feelings" now, when your refusal will result in the lake of fire – "hurting their feelings" – for eternity? (That's actually *hatred* for them!)
- (Other excuses you may have heard)



Part 2f



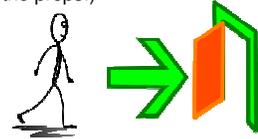
But there are some qualifying statements:

- Scripture tells us to start with ourselves, or else our judgment (at the day of justice) will be much more severe.
- Do it with an attitude of love, aware of your own weaknesses, etc.
- "Judging" is just one part of the whole range of ways we are to exhort and encourage each other.
- The way we are to respond to "outsiders" (people who do NOT claim to be Christians) is different from the way we are to respond to "insiders" (people who claim to be Christians).

Part 2g

Close & exit...

- In whatever way is appropriate for the setting.
- (Don't forget to take the props!)



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