

Communion Meditation June 21, 2015  
#15 on the “one-anothers”

**James 4.11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?**

**James 5.9: 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!**

**Rom 14.13: 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother’s way.**

The bulk of the “one anothers” are on loving and forgiving one another, and are statements in the positive; actions. But there are a number of the “one anothers” given to us in the negative, like these. And they mostly have to do with not being against one another, or doing that which destroys rather than builds up.

In The Discipline of Grace, Jerry Bridges refers to what he calls, “refined sins”. Sins which are more accepted by believers. And he realized one in his life, was the tendency to judge others or to speak critically of them to other people. He didn’t think he was that kind of person, but he realized that this seems to be such an acceptable vice among believers that we don’t often recognize it, unless it is flagrant, or we think it is mostly in someone else!

So we need to take seriously Jesus’ warning in Matt 7.3-5: **And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 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? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

So we need to learn to back off from judging others and leave that to God. The apostle Paul said: Rom 14.4: **Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed,**

**he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.**

A judgmental spirit usually comes out in the way we speak about others, with critical words or in gossip. And God knows when we think in those ways about one another.

We should pray: Ps 141.3: **Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips”.**

All sin, refined or not, is a breaking of God’s law. WSC “Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.” which is based on 1 Jn 3:4 **Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.**

In the sin of speaking evil of one another, we are breaking, at least, the ninth commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”.

But by His grace, the Lord is conforming us to His image. He is the God of truth and calls us to speak the truth.

And we come to this table again realizing that we need His grace to walk in unity and to keep His commandments. To not be judgmental and critical of each other.

Our perfect judge is the Lord Jesus Christ, and we come as forgiven sinners, acceptable to our Father in heaven, through Him.

So fellow members of the body of Christ, let’s cease from judging others and being critical of them, or speaking evil of one another, because we were forgiven by the Judge who knows all, and who practices perfect justice.

Prayer: Lord, we confess it is too easy for us to speak evil or to judge and be critical of one another. Please forgive us for this lawlessness, and through the grace we know in the Lord Jesus, and by the power of the Spirit of grace, deliver us from a critical spirit, and train us to speak the truth in love, to build each other up by our words, and to submit to You, our Lawgiver and our Judge. Unify us for the glory of Your name, as we remember Your body broken to save us, and Your blood shed to atone for our sin. We come to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to this table, in the name of Jesus Christ our King and

Lord. Amen.