

The Affirmation of Justification
My Harsh Judge Pt. 1
September 10th, 2023

Small Group Questions:

1. In your own words, what is the harsh judge?
2. Look at the common harsh judge statements. Which one have you heard most frequently in your life? Explain.
3. Read Galatians 3:10-14. What do we learn about meeting standards from this passage?
4. Read Romans 8:1-4. What do we learn about justification from this passage?
5. Read the quote from Robert S. McGee. How would your past be different if you had embraced this?
6. Look at the 7 steps to silencing the harsh judge. Take a few minutes to walk through this process based on a recent situation in your life. If you are comfortable, please share.

There's a **HARSH** judge in each of us.

The Harsh Judge sounds like this...

1. *Don't even try.*
2. *A good person wouldn't do this.*
3. *See, I told you so.*
4. *You're not good enough.*
5. *You won't meet expectations.*
6. *You're falling behind.*
7. *You're in over your head.*
8. *You'll never change.*
9. *You'll be found out.*

Romans 3:26 *he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

There's a gap between where we are and where we **OUGHT** to be.

Romans 7:25b *So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

There is a **STANDARD**, God's law, that you can't meet.

Galatians 3:10-14 *For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

The Law of GOD: The standard of holiness.

The Law of SIN: We have all failed to meet the standard.

The Law of WORK: Meet every standard yourself.

The Law of FAITH: Trust that Jesus met the standard for you.

Romans 8:1-4 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Gospel Truth: The harsh judge has no power to **CONDEMN** because Jesus already took on our **CONDEMNATION**.

Neither success nor failure is the proper basis for our self-worth. Christ alone is the source of our forgiveness, freedom, joy and purpose. Some people have difficulty thinking of themselves as benign please to God because they link being pleasing so strongly with performance. They tend to be displeased with anything short of perfection in themselves and suspect that God has the same standard. The point of justification is that we can never achieve perfection on this earth. Yet He loves us so much that he appointed His Son to pay for our sins and to give us His own righteousness, His perfect status before the Father. Robert S. McGee

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Question #1: Does God love you or Jesus more?

Question #2: If you see yourself differently than God sees you, who's in the wrong?

Daily Confession: *God, I'm not enough but Christ was enough in my place. Thank you for securing my status with you, forever.*

Daily Affirmation: *Because of Jesus, I am fully forgiven and pleasing to God.*

7 Steps To Silencing The Judge:

1. Situation: What happened?
2. Thought: What thoughts did you have?
3. Emotion: What emotion followed?
4. Ungodly: What was your response?
5. God's Truth: What does God say about you?
6. New Emotion: What emotions are produced by God's truth?
7. Godly Response: What will be your response?

Bottom Line: INTERNALIZE God's truth.