



## Week 19: Letting go of Condemnation (pt 2)

Decide how much time you will spend. Do not rush or be rushed. Remove distractions.

**Opening Practice:** Confess and reflect on this saying, “God you do not condemn us, but you love and accept us and invite us to learn and change.”<sup>1</sup>

### Opening Prayer:

Loving Father, you are wonderful. You do not condemn me or treat me as my sins deserve. I admit that I easily condemn others or seek to force “good” upon them. I do so to help them or in an attempt to make life as I think it should be. Take the plank of condemnation out of my eye, Lord so I can see others with compassion as you did, and thus be able to genuinely help them. Amen.

### Weekly memory verse(s):

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”  
- Matthew 3:17

**Scripture Reading:** Read slowly. Imagine what you are reading. The daily questions will correspond to the daily scripture passage.

Each day: Matthew 7:1-6

Monday: Rev 3:14-22 (esp 20)

Tuesday: John 3:14-21

Wednesday: Matthew 18:23-35

Thursday: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Friday: Romans 12:9-21

Saturday: Prov 25:15, 18-22

### Daily Practice:

Spend some time in silence reflecting on the following questions. As you reflect, write on the blank journaling page.

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<sup>1</sup> John 3:17, 4:1-42; Matthew 9:9-13



## Daily reflection questions:

**Monday:** It is easy to use condemnation as a way to try to help people. In today's scripture (Rev 3:14-22) what is Jesus' way of helping his people?

Who are people that you love and want to help by using condemnation?

**Tuesday:** We often try to help people, take the speck out of their eye, with the plank of condemnation blinding us. In John 3:14-21, how did God seek to help us? What are the "specks" or the issues in the people you listed yesterday?

**Wednesday:** How has God treated you in your sins and debts? How do Jesus' words speak to the people and situations where you use condemnation? Spend some time in prayer for the people and issues you listed from Monday and Tuesday. Ask God to help you see them and the situations with his eyes and his desires.

**Thursday:** How are judgmentalism and condemnation examples of "unwholesome talk" (Eph 4:29)? Think of a person or situation where you have been or are tempted to be judgmental. How would Jesus "build them up according to their needs" (Eph 4:29)? In dealing with the people and issues you listed on Monday and Tuesday, what attitudes or words would help build them up according to their needs? Practice these today.

**Friday:** Today's scripture (Romans 12:9-21) talks about the process of loving people with God through change. It takes time. You will be tempted to become impatient and to speed things up by anger or judgmentalism. Who are people you have tried to help through condemnation? Contact them to apologize.

**Saturday:** How do these verses (Prov 25:15, 18-22) explain how loving engagement or condemnation work in the situations you mentioned Monday and Tuesday? Pray for the people and situations where you know you can easily become judgmental.

## Closing:

*Loving Father, I want my life to have influence and be a blessing. I long to be salt and light. Condemnation is a curse, not a blessing and this is not how you treated me. Help me to see situations through your eyes, and trust in your Kingdom way of patience, encouragement, and love. Use me and make me a blessing. Amen.*

## Quotes:

*“Condemnation is the board in our eye. [Jesus] knows that the mere fact that we are condemning someone shows our hearts does not have the kingdom rightness he has been talking about. Condemnation, especially with its usual accompaniments of anger and contempt and self-righteousness, blinds us to the reality of the other person. We cannot “see clearly” how to assist our brother, because we cannot see our brother. And we will never know how to truly help him until we have grown into the kind of person who does not condemn. Period.*

*“Our practice of “condemnation engineering,” as it might be called, usually goes hand in hand with another device mistakenly used to manage the lives of those we truly care about. This is the practice of pushing the things of God upon them whether they want or are ready for them or not. [This is the meaning of the illustration of pearls and pigs.] Our good intentions make little difference. The needy person will finally become angry and attack us. The point is not the waste of the “pearl” but that the person given the pearl is not helped.”*

- Dallas Willard <sup>2</sup>

*“But if we have all these riches in God, at the same time we need to remember that human personality is by no means completed.... Since God is a perfect, a complete personality, we can only indistinctly see Him through our broken personalities. In proportion to the completion of our personalities He is revealed to us.... Each [person] has some lack in his or her personality. Neither can be completed alone.... We have to learn that since we ourselves have faults we must also forgive one another.”*

*“Many people do not see each other’s good points, but only their weak points, and speak ill of them, saying, “But So-and-so has such-and-such faults.” The very word “but” is often used with this criticizing meaning in Japan. They think that unkind gossip is valuable criticism. Some people speak ill of the Churches. But we should always be seeing the better sides of things. Paul said, “Hold such in reputation,” and often praised others. We must always be forgiving each other’s sins. This is the best way for the completion of personality.*

- Toyohiko Kagawa <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Divine Conspiracy p224, 228-9.

<sup>3</sup> The Religion of Jesus, 53-4, available at <https://bit.ly/3lel6nO>



## Go Deeper:

Songs: “[Don’t Throw All the Good Things Away](#)” by NeedtoBreathe  
<https://bit.ly/3tACTI7>

“[Let Mercy Lead](#)” by Rich Mullins  
<https://bit.ly/3tGcBOM>

Book Excerpt: “[The Community of Prayerful Love](#)” in *The Divine Conspiracy*  
by Dallas Willard, p215-231, <https://bit.ly/3nm7u1F>

“Constructive Correction” in [Parenting is Heart Work](#)  
by Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, ch 13.

Article: “[How to Stop Judging Others](#)” by Keir Brady <sup>4</sup>  
<https://bit.ly/3nzj4qs>

Video: “[To Judge or Not to Judge](#)” by Tim Mackie  
<https://bit.ly/3fsrtaA>

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<sup>4</sup> Note: This article is not written from a Christian perspective. The use of this resource is to help you think with Jesus about these issues. The use of the article does not imply that the author is necessarily a reliable source of information in other areas, or that we agree with everything the author has written.

