

Self-Study & Care Group Guide

Overview

Judgment is a word people don't like to hear, especially in church. However, Jesus lays out judgments on seven churches in the book of Revelation. Did you know that God's judgment is intended to purify and not to punish? What you'll see in today's message is that Jesus commends things that are right, corrects things that need to change, and gives rewards to those who overcome.

Ice Breaker

Looking back on your experience of the Sunday Service and the notes from the teaching, was there something general or specific (a point, verse, or comment) that caught your attention, made you excited, challenged you, or raised a question?

Part 1

Read Colossians 3:1-17. What does this scripture teach us about the things we need to put to death in our lives? (vs. 5-11)

In what ways does this scripture give examples of how we are to put those things to death? (vs. 1-4, 12-17)

What are some of the examples in this scripture that show us how those in the church are to help one another in overcoming things in this world? In what ways have you experienced this?

Part 2

God has ordained four areas of authority in the governing of our lives. Choose to read one scripture from each area below and then answer the questions that follow.

God and His Word rules over all: Isaiah 40:23, 2 Chronicles 20:6

- ⇒ Family: Husband, Wife, Father, Mother, Children (Ephesians 5:21–6:4 and Proverbs 6:20–21)
- ⇒ Government: National leaders, Local officials, Citizens (1 Peter 2:13–17 and Romans 13:1–5)
- ⇒ Church: Church leaders, Church members (Ephesians 4:11–16, Hebrews 13:17, and 1 Peter 5:1–11)
- ⇒ Business: Employers, Employees (Colossians 3:22–4:1 and 1 Peter 2:18)

What are examples in our society where we see a breakdown in these areas of governance? Why do you think this is?

How can we strengthen these areas in our lives?

Part 3

Read Matthew 16:18, Romans 12:21, 1 John 2:14, 1 John 5:5

What do these Scriptures teach us about how to overcome the world? What seems to unite or link them together?

Share a time in your life where you overcame something with God's help. What was that experience like?

Application

In your devotions this week, ask Jesus to judge your heart and behaviors. Pay attention to what comes to mind as you pray, and then expect a sense of purity and reward as you submit those things to him. His desire is not to punish you, but to set you free.