



Covenant Life Church

Newsletter #10

Judgments

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

Announcements

New Update

Beginning on Father's Day, June 21, we will be returning to the church sanctuary for Sunday services only.

The Virginia Governor announced Phase I of the reopening of Virginia beginning on May 29. However, due to the impact of the virus, our host church requested that we continue to limit attendance to 10 people during Phase I of the reopening.

Consequently, beginning June 21 until Phase II begins, we will only have the necessary CLC staff and worship team in the sanctuary to conduct the Sunday service.

We will continue to live stream Sunday services on Facebook. We will also continue to live stream Monday Night Discipleship Class and Friday night Table Talk via Facebook, and our Sunday Prophetic Class on Zoom, until further notice.

To view our services on FACEBOOK, please "Like" us on FACEBOOK at Covenant Life Church. <https://facebook.com/covenantlife4>

Reminders: Church Services and Cancellations:

(a) **Church Services:** Until further notice, all CLC services will occur via Facebook Live, unless otherwise noted. These include:

- Monday Night **Discipleship Class** at 8 PM
- Tuesday **Prayer Tabernacle** at 7:30 PM: The dial in number for the Tuesday night Prayer Tabernacle is: 712-775-7270; access code: 221090.
- Friday Night **Table Talk/School of the Holy Spirit** at 7:30 PM
- Sunday **Prophetic Class** at 1-2 PM via Zoom

May 31, 2020 01:00 PM

Jun 7, 2020 01:00 PM

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255245878?pwd=Mk16bUZhNGFTMU5HVk0vOUJXMjF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85255245878#,,#,3846# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,85255245878#,,#,3846# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255245878?pwd=Mk16bUZhNGFTMU5HVk0vOUJXMjF3QT09>

- Sunday **Church Service** at 2:30 PM

(b) **Conferences:** All conferences for 2020 are cancelled except for the September Deliverance Conference and the Women's Conference on November 13 -14, 2020.

WHAT'S NEW?

BREEZE Church Management System: We are pleased to announce that we are now using a church database management system called “Breeze” that will help members manage their personal information for church. Members now have the opportunity to have a personal church profile that provides name, address, email; allows for members to give online through Breeze so they can track their giving history and provides a church directory.

Ways to Give: You can use **BREEZE** to give or use **PayPal** on the church website or mail in your donation.

- **One-time or Recurring Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can enable one-time giving or recurring donations using the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **Paypal, ACH or Credit Card Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can give using PayPal, ACH or Credit Card at the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **TEXT TO GIVE:** You can give by texting the number: **(616) 326-3171**
- **Mail:** You can mail in your donation to: **CLC, P.O. Box 1262, Springfield, VA 22151**

Member Accounts: Pastor Andrea is reaching out to all members to invite you to create your own personal account in Breeze (if you desire) that will enable you to monitor your personal and giving history. Meanwhile, you are invited to give through Breeze as you desire, or use the PayPal GIVE command on the website

We appreciate your faithfulness in attending services through FACEBOOK and your generous donations to the church.

From the Desk of Apostles Jeff & Dr. Linda Herbert

Judgments

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus mandated that we not judge others or that same judgement is returned to us. Matthew 7:1-5 states, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 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? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye (NKJV).

Later on, during the Sermon on the Mount, it is interesting that Jesus said we still must render judgment. However, Jesus indicated a distinction between harming someone through judgment and discerning them by their spiritual fruits. Jesus said in Matthew 7:16-20, "You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So, every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions (NLT).

So, did Jesus mean that we are to tolerate sinful actions because we should not judge? And what about 'checking fruit'? How do we 'check fruit,' yet not judge? Rightly dividing the Scriptures in Matthew chapter seven reveals that Jesus is speaking out against hypocritical and ungodly judgments. He is saying that if we judge others, then that same judgment will be mirrored in us, and we need to hold ourselves to the same standards that we hold other people. We also see Jesus confronting the religious leaders in John 7:24 because of their ungodly judgments. Jesus confronted the religious leaders who railed at him when he healed on the Sabbath telling them, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. Jesus was cautioning them that their judgment was ungodly because it was based on outward appearance. Additionally, Jesus said that we would know them by their fruit, or actions. He did not say that we should judge them for their actions, but just identify them by their actions!

That said, we should not judge others because few of us can be held to the same standard and our judgments are ungodly! We do judge to righteous standards because we are not righteous ourselves and we do not know the motives or intent of another person's heart. The Bible says, there are none righteous - no not one (Romans 2:10). We have been made righteous only by the blood of the Lamb and not through our own righteousness. The bible states that our righteousness is as filthy rags (Is 64:6). And, if we want God to give us grace, then we need to sow grace! Whatever we sow we will reap – so if we sow judgment, we will reap judgment, but if we sow grace, we will receive grace!

Only Jesus is the Righteous Judge and Jesus said, "I did not come to judge the world but to save the world" (John 12:47). In his sermon before His Passion, he stated, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me" (John 12:44-50).

In Romans 2:1 and First Corinthians 4:5, the Apostle Paul also cautioned against judgment. Paul admonished the Romans against judgment stating, "You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things" (Romans 2:1, NLT). In this passage Paul is speaking to Christians and he is making it clear that they are not to judge. Likewise, he told the Corinthians to, "not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God." In this passage, Paul admonished the Corinthians that they did not know all the facts or motives of a person's heart to judge them.

James, the brother of our Lord also cautioned, "There is only one lawgiver and judge, he

who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor” (James 4:12). James reminds us that we are not qualified to judge others. Only the Righteous Judge is qualified to judge because only He knows the intent and motives of the heart. Hebrews 4:12-13 states, “The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

Thus, although we may recognize people by their fruits (actions) we are not qualified to judge them. While we may recognize evil, we do not label people as evil. Rather, we recognize and discern the acts performed and the attitudes displayed by wicked people, but we are qualified to judge motives or intent of the heart. If we judge them, then we understand that we are pronouncing judgement on ourselves. And without the shed blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, we are under the same judgment (or sentence) that we pronounced on them! We have no righteousness of our own!

So, now we come full circle back to the Apostle Paul’s statement, “Therefore, you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things” (Romans 2:1-2).

We encourage you to repent today for any judgments you made toward anyone and ask forgiveness from the Lord. And, break off anything that may have affected your spirit, soul and body as a result of the judgments.

Say this prayer:

“Father God, I repent for any judgments that I made against myself or others. Please forgive me for passing judgment and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I break the power over any effect of the judgments that came against my spirit, soul and body, In Jesus Name. And now Lord, I ask that you restore and heal my spirit, soul and body in accordance with your Word that states, “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed (Is 53:5). In Jesus Name, Amen.”